THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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To the ...

CALCUTTA JAN. 1 N

No. 9

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 25TH DECEMBER.

MR. DADABHAI NAOROJI has printed a valuable note on Education. It contains the celebrated minute of Sir John Peter Grant on the subject of grants-in-aid to Missionary schools, to which reference was made by a Calcutta witness in his evidence before the Education Commission. As this minute is out of print we have much pleasure in giving the following extract from it:

I believe that it will be found a matter of infinite difficulty for the Indian Governments so to distribute and regulate grants in aid to mission schools as not to offend, even in appearance (and here the appearance of the thing is of the essence of the political question) against the still recognised principle of religious neutrality; for one of the acknowledged objects, and the greatest object, of Mission Schools is proselytism. If private persons spend their own money in endeavouring by legitimate means to convert people of other religious persuasions to their own religious persuasions, the people of India are not so intolerant as to question the right of such persons so to spend their money, or so bigoted as to take offence at their doing so. In this way, quietly, safely, and surely, much good has been done, and much good is now doing by private benevolence. And in this way, if no error of policy be committed which shall change the course of native feelings on the subject, there seems to me reason to expect that, under Providence, the good that may eventually be done quietly, safely and surely, will be infinite. But the case would be different if the public taxes which are paid by, and are held in trust, for the use of the people of India, were, or were believed by the people of India to be, appropriated in aid of such endeavours at conversion. We have only to imagine the same policy adopted at Home to become aware of the feelings of Mahomedans and Hindus under such policy. How, for example, would the Scotch feel, and how would they be likely to act, if Scotch taxes were spent upon propaganda missions in Scotland? I am firmly persuaded that unless in practice it be so contrived that all breach and all appearance of breach of religious neutrality can be avoided, a blow will be struck at our power in India, which in the course of time may prove fatal.* * *

So many dangers and evils seem to threaten us on our abandonment of the known and plain course of absolute disconnection with all proselytising institutions, that I trust that those even who think that such abandonment is proper will admit that we must walk with infinite caution in the untried and difficult path we are about to enter.

Where is now the bold statesmanship of Sir John Peter Grant?

THE ADMIRERS of Longfellow have opened a subscription to place a bust of the poet in Westminster Abbey with a scroll beneath it in which will appear the names of Poe, Irving and other American men of letters. The Dean of Westminster has given his consent to allow Longfellow a place in the poet's corner.

AN UP-COUNTRY journal says: "Following the school of the late Lady Ellenborough, some ladies in England moving in good society, reasonably intelligent, fairly well educated, and uninfluenced by sordid considerations, have expressed a desire to marry Mussalman husbands." What is the source of our contemporary's information?

THE TOTAL cost of the Egyptian war, according to Mr. Gladstone's estimate, is to be £4,500,000 of which £1,140,000 is to be met by India. The expense to England is thus £3,360,000. The Indian Contingent contained, in round numbers, 5,000 fighting men, whilst the number of fighting men sent on the English side, may be stated roundly at 20,000. The expenditure, therefore, per head in the former force comes to about £228, and in the latter to £168.

A TERRIBLE STORM is predicted for the 11th of next March by the same official in the Canadian Finance Department, who foretold the late cyclone in the States. This weather-prophet says that the tempest will affect India, the south of Europe, England, and especially the North American continent, while its strength will be so fearful that no smaller vessel than Cunarders can live on the Ocean. All the low lands on the Atlantic will be submerged, and he begs the American and Canadian Governments to take due precautions.

AN ANTI-SEMITIC SOCIETY has been stated in Hungary, the members of which bind themselves never to lease, sell, or lend anything to a Jew, and never to buy nor borrow of any of that race. Bravo!

TUESDAY, 26TH DECEMBER.

AN INTERESTING list of annuities and pensions has recently been issued in England. Over and above payments of the civil list, members of the Royal Family receive £161,000. Pensions for naval and military services amount to £38,156; for political and civil services, £20,434; for judicial services in Great Britain, £41,225; for judicial services in Ireland, £22,467; for diplomatic services, £8,173; miscellaneous pensions, £9095; and hereditary pensions, £6,184. Of naval and military pensions, the £5,000 of Earl Nelson and the £4,000 of the Duke of Marlborough are intended to run to the end of time, like the £984 of the Duke of Schomberger's heirs, the £1,200 of the heirs of Captain Garth, and £4,000 to the heirs of William Penn. The Duke of Wellington's £2,000 ceases after the death of the next holder of the title. Lord Eversley draws £4,000; Lady Elgin, £1,000; Lady Mayo, £1,000; Mr. Milner Gibson, £2,000; Mr. Spencer Walpole, £2,000; Lord Clarence Paget £1,950; Mr. Charles Villiers, £1,950; Earl Cairns, £5,000; and six retired Judges and a number of ex-County Court Judges draw various sums.

AN AMUSING INCIDENT is reported from Madras. Mr. Spring Branson, barrister-at-law, who has hitherto worn a very fine beard, appeared in Court on Monday morning clean shaved, and rose to move the Court to take an insolvent out of jail. Mr. Justice Kernan looked at the learned gentleman very hard, and then with a smile remarked that he had made a very *bare-faced* motion. The Court was in roars of laughter.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA has decided to employ Mr. J. Faithfull Fleet, of the Bombay Civil Service, a pupil of the late Dr. Goldstucker, as epigraphist to the Archæological Surveys. This work was recommended last year by General Cunningham, Director of the Archæological Survey in the North and East of India, and by Dr. J. Burgess, of the Survey of Western and Southern India, whose representation was supported by the Berlin Congress of Orientalists, and, at the instance of Sir Walter Elliot, by the Royal Asiatic Society. The Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the appointment.

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT gives the rate of mortality in Indian jails for the last four years:

	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.
Bombay	11·3	10·9	4·5	4·2
Madras	1·5	5·6	4·5	4·2
Lower Bengal	1·0	9·7	6·3	6·5
Assam	6·1	8·6	5·2	3·9
N.-W. and Oudh	4·1	4·2	2·8	2·4
Punjab	10·9	14·0	7·8	6·5
Central Provinces ...	11·8	6·7	6·0	2·9

So the late agitation about jail mortality has borne fruit.

THERE WAS a monster meeting of natives at Tanjore to protest against some of the provisions of the Forest Laws which are said to press hard on the cultivators and other poor inhabitants of rural districts. Representatives from all parts of Sattette attended the gathering, some arriving by train and others by road. Several speeches were made, the addresses being principally directed to showing that in consequence of the stringent provisions of the law the poorer classes are put to great inconvenience and even suffering. Resolutions were adopted protesting against the laws, and appointing a committee to memorialise the Government of India with a view to the modification of their provisions. The proceedings throughout were very orderly, and the earnestness of those present may be gathered from the fact that a proposition was carried that a fund of Rs. 25,000 should be raised to carry out the objects of the meeting.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE SALVATIONISTS. General Sir R. Phayre, commanding the Poona Division, Bombay Army, has written to "Major" Tucker, of the Salvation Army, promising his hearty sympathy, and a contribution of Rs. 100 a month for one year. It is stated that a prominent member of the Indian Medical Service, who retires in a few weeks, will join the Salvation Army, and fight the Indian campaign side by side with "Major" Tucker.

A PLUCKY THING in the way of geographical research has been accomplished by a native explorer belonging to the Indian Survey Department, who was sent on a mission to Northern Tibet in the summer of 1878, and has only recently returned to Calcutta. It was reported about a year ago that he had been seized by the Thibetans at Lassa and detained so that he could neither proceed further nor return. Although he appears to have had some adventures, no such serious mishap occurred. He arrived safe at Calcutta, last week, bringing his journals containing complete records. He succeeded in reaching Thingali, a point to the west of Lake Koko Nur, and then found his way to Saithang. He was robbed on one occasion, but though nearly destitute did not to turn back, and after serving as a herdsman to some Mongolians and for being enslaved for seven months by a band of Tartars at Seitu o Sachin, he arrived, early at Barong Chaidar, 100 miles west of Lake Nur. Being unable to get across the belt of country between Sawa and the British frontier had to return by a circuitous route *via* Alamdo, Giamda, eventually reaching Darjeeling after absence from India of nearly four years. He started with two companions, but only one returned throughout. The other man, a Thibetan, deserted him at Lob Nur, robbing him of as much property as he then had left. A full account of the explorations is to be published.

WEDNESDAY, 27TH DECEMBER.

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY has conferred on Salem Faris, the son of the famous Arabic scholar Ahmed Faris, and editor in chief of the *El-Jawaib*, the rank corresponding with that of General of Brigade, in consideration of his valuable literary and other services.

MR. KENNY, the new member for Ennis, is the youngest member of the House of Commons. He is only twenty-one years of age. Mr. T. A. Dickson, another Irish member, is twenty-three. The youngest English representative is the Hon. Robert Spencer, who is twenty-five, Mr. Forster and Mr. Brodrick being his seniors by a year.

AN UNWONTED INCIDENT took place in the House of Commons during the debate on the closure resolution on Nov. 10. Five of the officers of the Indian contingent, who are now on visit to England, entered the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery at half-past two o'clock, while Mr. Chaplin was speaking. Their splendid physique and picturesque uniforms of the visitors immediately attracted universal attention, and loud cheers came from all parts of the House, compelling the speaker to temporarily suspend his remarks. The native officers, standing at the front of the tribune usually set apart for the diplomatic corps (the other portions of the gallery being already occupied), repeatedly acknowledged by military salutes the complement paid them in so marked and gratifying a manner.

WE TAKE the following from Parliamentary intelligence:

Mr. O'Donnell asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Government had received information showing that in 1880 certain officials in Madras were promoters of a number of gold mining companies with a capital of £1,000,000 sterling; that those officials received amounts of £200,000 as purchase money of certain portions of land from various mining companies, and whether he would cause inquiries to be made into the amount and value of the lands belonging to the native State of Mysore, which were alienated for sale or purchase during the past seven years. The Marquis of Hartington: The India Office has not received any information to the effect indicated in this question. I shall, however, cause inquiries to be made regarding the matters referred to by the hon. member.

THE FOLLOWING is going the round of the papers:

There was a very funny incident in the House of Commons just before the passing of the Closure measure the other evening. The clock was on the stroke of one when Mr. Newdegate rose to his feet amidst an objecting roar. The Member for North Warwickshire got somewhat excited, and indulged in frantic gestures with closed fist, aimed apparently at the Premier. In the gallery sat one of the Indian warriors. Brought up amidst the turmoil of "wild Mahratta battle," he could account for Mr. Newdegate's performance only on the ground that he wanted to fight somebody, and that somebody must be Mr. Gladstone, whom he was taught to revere. It was curious to watch how uneasy the Sikh was, how nervously he grasped his sword and measured with his eye the distance from the gallery to the floor. It seemed that a little further provocation, and he would have been standing between the Premier and his assailant. Fu[illegible]

presently Mr. Newdegate subsided, and so did the Sikh. Such, then, is the sense of loyalty possessed by an average Indian soldier!

THE INDIAN MAIL thus welcomes Dr. Rajendra Mitra's last work, the Sanskrit Buddhist Literature of Nepal:

"The ambition and marvellous literary industry of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, C. I. E., have at last given to the world a complete analysis of that grand hoard of [illegible] the history of Buddhism, amassed by Mr. Bryan Hodgson when he was resident in Nepal, which was presented by him to the Asiatic Society of Bengal. Mr. Hodgson, as is justly styled by M. Burnouf "fondateur de la Buddhisme," presented no less than eighty-five volumes, comprising one hundred and forty-four separate works to the Asiatic Society of Bengal, an equal number to the Royal Asiatic Society, and other sets to the Bodleian, to the Society Asiatique, and [illegible] Whilst he was the discoverer of this literature also was the first, in his *Essays*, to explain it. M. Burnouf, too, in his famous "Introduction a la Buddhisme Indien," elaborated its [illegible] But though by these learned works the [illegible] throughout the world has been attracted to the mine opened up by Mr. Hodgson, no one has until now to make public its actual wealth. The book just published ("The Sanskrit Literature of Nepal, Calcutta, 1882), Dr. Rajendralala has carefully analysed each one of these hitherto unknown manuscripts—a task, the completion of which will mark an era in the history of Buddhistic research. By the stories and legends, now for the first time published, many Buddhist sculptures will doubtless be explained; many Buddhist traditions will be verified, and the rare historical value of such a work is of itself obvious. We trust that its importance will be duly recognised by the Government, and we should be glad to hear that that recognition had taken substantial and honorable form.

THURSDAY, 28TH DECEMBER.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that Raja Surji Kumar Acha, C. I. has offered to assist Babu Pratapa Chunder Roy in the translation, publication and gratuitous distribution of the Mahavarattha and Ramayana. The undertaking deserves support.

WITH REFERENCE to the donation of His Excellency the Viceroy in aid of the funds of the Agra College, the College Committee have recorded the following resolutions:

Resolved that the Committee offer their most sincere and grateful thanks for this liberal and generous aid to the cause of the College.

The Committee are happy to find that the efforts they have hitherto made meet His Excellency's approval. The most [illegible] encouragement will stimulate them to double their exertions, which, it is hoped, will give an example to other friends of the College the encouragement which can hardly be exaggerated.

The Committee also desire to think most cordially His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, N. W. P. and his Private Secretary for the personal trouble they have taken in the matter.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a Prospectus of Mr. Kesava Rao's Sanskrit school in Triplicane for the diffusion of Sanskrit learning among those, who wish to study the language. We wish the project success.

COMPLAINTS continue to pour in from different quarters regarding the Calcutta University Examination papers set at the last F. A. and Entrance Examinations. A correspondent from Purnea bitterly complains of the very low marks assigned to book propositions. We have already drawn public attention to the subject and trust that the Moderators will make some allowance on this score. The slaughter of the innocents ought to evoke sympathy in the most hard-hearted.

A CORRESPONDENT from Banda writes to us of the slipping over-board of a Steam Plough Engine when forded over the Jumna below Banda. We should like to know who was responsible for the bad arrangements. The Engineer in charge of the Engine or who?

CERTAIN INHABITANTS of Bhadreswar bring to our notice the inconvenience caused to them by the Branch R. S. Railway line from the main station to the river side closing all the bathing ghats save one. Access to this line only lies through a passage below a culvert and this single passage too gets extremely slippery owing to the large number of people that come to bathe. We commend this complaint to the notice of both the Sub-divisional Officer and the Divisional Commissioner.

MR. HALLIDAY, Commissioner of the Patna Division, lately on tour, visited the sub-division of Behar; and the school committee of the place presented a memorial to him requesting permission to found a scholarship of Rs. 5 per mensem after his name, but Mr. Halliday very judiciously refused to comply with their request as the finances of the school were not quite flourishing. The financial position of the school had been greatly improved of late through the exertions of the sub-divisional officer Babu Nobin Chunder Sen, but he advised them to defer the proposal till next years. Our correspondent, who gives an account of the visit, says that the Commissioner's interview with the zemindars was somewhat interesting. The conversation mainly turned upon the question of constructing a light railway line between Bukhtiar and Nowada *via* Behar. The Commissioner after complimenting them upon their public spirit asked them to take up the enterprise themselves; the zemindars, however, urged that the work should be undertaken by Government and the expenditure met from the Road Cess Funds of the Patna and Gya districts, particularly as there would be a saving of the cost of the maintenance of the road, it being transferred for Railway purposes. The Commissioner promised to consider the suggestion.

FRIDAY, 29TH DECEMBER.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM has resolved to concede the elective system to the Municipality of Sylhet. We give some of the rules laid down by him:

1. There shall be 16 Municipal commissioners, viz.—

Three Commissioners, for each of the Wards Nos 3 and 7. Two Commissioners for each of the wards Nos. 12, 4, 5, and 6.

2. The Commissioners for each Ward shall be elected by the rate-payers residing within the Ward, who pay Municipal taxes to the amount of Re. 1. ans. 8. per annum or more. In wards where there are three Commissioners, each rate-payer may vote for three commissioners. In wards where there are two commissioners, each rate-payer may vote for two commissioners.

3. Rate-payers, who have not paid the full amount of the tax due at the time the election takes place, shall not be entitled to vote.

4. Persons not otherwise entitled, who belong to any of the following classes and who reside within the Ward, shall be entitled to vote, provided that they first register their names in a Register to be kept for that purpose in the office of the Municipal commissioners:—

(1). Government pensioners drawing not less than Rs. 20 a month as pension.

(2). Government servants drawing not less than Rs. 40 a month as salary.

(3). Persons entered in the list of jurors and assessors.

(4). Pleaders.

(5) Graduates of any University.

5. Persons able to read and write who reside within the Ward and who either pay Municipal tax to the amount of Rs. 6 per annum or more, or belong to any of the five classes mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall be eligible for election.

THE FOLLOWING Native gentlemen have recently been called to the Bar in England:—Messrs Nanda Lall Ghose, Inner Temple, Cumbhumpati Akilandaiya, B.A., (Madras) Inner Temple, and Cursetji Rustomji, Middle Temple.

A CORRESPONDENT at Haripal seems to think that if the projected Tarakessar Railway, as mapped out by the Survey Party, should cross the village at the points indicated therein, it would entail hardship and loss upon the inhabitants. He suggests a shorter cut and a less expensive line through Dhanyahana, Malia, the northern side of Haripal, Boliarpur, and Bolorampur to Sheopur.

AS USUAL the inmates of the Calcutta Alms House were entertained on Xmas day with a sumptuous dinner at the expense of the District Charitable Society. After dinner they presented an address to their Superintendent Mr. Thomas McGuire, conveying their sincere thanks to him and to the President and members of the Society for the lively interest they take in their welfare.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving the following letter from a correspondent:

Now that there has been a concentration of Public Offices in the Writer's Building, the following extracts from an article in an old number of the Calcutta Review may perhaps be read with interest by many of your readers.

"Tank Square, last century," in the middle of the city covers upwards of twenty five acres of ground.

Stavorinus states:—It was dug by order of Government to provide the inhabitants of Calcutta with water, which is very sweet and pleasant. The number of springs which it contains makes the water in it nearly always on the same level. It is railed round, no one may wash in it."

When this tank was dug, we have never been able to ascertain. Hamilton wrote in 1702 that the Governor had a handsome house in the Port, "the company has also a pretty good garden that furnishes the Governors with herbage and fruits at table, and some fish ponds to serve his kitchen with good carps, callops, and mullets." Perhaps the tank was dug to serve as the fish-ponds, and the garden may have formed the Park, Lal Bagh or, in modern times Tank Square. The tank was formerly more extensive, but was cleansed and embanked completely in Warren Hasting's time. Its first name was the Green before the Fort' No doubt it was the place of recreation and shooting wild game. In the company's factors, and in the middle of the last century it was the scene of many a moonlight gambol of young people, and elderly ones, who, rigged out in stocklings of different colors, yellow coat, green waist coat, &c., amused themselves on the banks of fish-pond in the Park, inhaling the evening breezes and thinking of the friends of whom they had heard some months before."

Als Ornes Lectory.

"But the ground immediately to the south east of the Port was much more open; That this space was occupied by a large enclosure called the "Park;" the north side of which skirted the principal avenue leading to the eastern battery, the western side extended to 200 yds. along the side of the cross road towards the southern battery and the eastern side skirted on side of a rope walk about sixty yards broad."

"But the ground immediately to the south east of the Park was much more open; short of this space was occupied by a large enclosure called the "Park;" the north side of *Fort William College or Writers Buildings* was appropriated for the residence of writers or young civilians. Originally civilians during their first years in India were employed in copying. Sir C. Metcalfe "wrote session" himself, a work now done by Keranis at the rate of 100 hundred for a Rupee; they at first lived in the West but subsequently in the present buildings, which were rented by Government from the Borwell family." In the North West corner of Tank Square stood the Black Hole, its site was commemorated by an obelisk, fifty feet high, inscribed with the names of thirty of the victims who perished in the Black Hole on the 20th of June, 1757. It was erected at the expense of Mr Holwell and the survivors, "the bodies of the victims were thrown into the ditch of the Fort." This monument, though erected at the expence of individuals, was pulled down by the order of the Marquis of Hastings."

Your readers are no-doubt already aware that "Tank Square" is now called "Dalhousie Square" and has been so called since March 1865 by an order of the local Government after the foundation within the enclosure of the square of the Dalhousie Memorial Hall and Institute and that a pedestalled and ornamental gas lamp post N. W. of the Square now marks the spot where the Black Hole formerly stood.

Yours Faithfully
C.

Calcutta the 28, 12, 82

OUR SPRIGHTLY CONTEMPORARY of the *Indian Spectator* has communicated article, which begins with the following remarks:

"The people of India have felt for a long time past that the chief cause of the unpopularity of the British rule in India is its greed of gold. The almighty rupee is every thing to Government. Money, more and more money, must be made by every means and at any sacrifice. Let the people starve so long as Government get money. The people may be killed by slow poisoning if such a process could procure revenue. Or else, why this prohibition to draw Toddy from people's own trees on their own ground? why deprive them of what is their own, and besides make the trees useless for the purposes for which God made them? These trees were a source of food and even more to hundreds of thousands of people who must now starve and go naked because Government want more revenue."

This is the idea which reigned supreme the other day in the Bengal Council when the Bill, which among other things provides for the taxing of an innocent article of food, the sap of the date tree, was discussed. We shall not be surprised to see the over-zealous revenue officer ascend from the sap to the fruit itself, [illegible] and his brethren to another 22 thousand rupees a year.

SATURDAY, 30TH DECEMBER.

NO DISTRICT OFFICER has of late years received so much honor in leaving his district as Mr. Worseley, the Magistrate of Mozufferpore, has. The planters, zemindars, pleaders, indeed all classes of the local community vied with each other in doing him honor. We commend his example to other district officers.

WE ARE SORRY to learn that Mr. Bernard is compelled by ill-health to go home. Probably Mr. Elliott, Chief Commissioner of Assam, will be sent to British Burmah. Mr. Mackenzie, the Home Secretary, has the best claim to the Chief Commissionership of Assam.

REFERRING to the remarks of Mr. Rivers Thompson in favour of the license tax, the *Pioneer* says:

And the result of getting at this class is under £150 000 in a province of sixty odd millions of people! It is strange that supporters of the license tax do not see more plainly how ludicrous favourable theories about it look in contrast with the facts.

Quite so.

WE READ that Lord Wolseley, speaking at a banquet given in his honour by Sir William Armstrong, President of the Institute of Civil Engineers, deprecated the idea that the Egyptian Army had been easily overcome: on the contrary, he characterised Arabi's force as the first regular army our troops have encountered since the Crimean war. The Egyptians, he said, were well organised, well drilled and well armed with weapons as good as those of the Germans in the last Franco-Prussian war.

THE DECENNIAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE has commenced its sittings in Calcutta. The Lord Bishop was invited to attend, but he has declined in the following terms:

There are times when we are greatly tempted to sacrifice our principles to our feelings, and certainly this has been one of those occasions to me. My natural impulses might have led me to embrace this opportunity of showing my deep interest in all that concerns missionary work in this country, and my sincere appreciation of the labour of many devoted servants of God who are working as missionaries associated with Christian bodies not in connection with the Church of England, but I have been unable to avoid the conclusion that important principles are involved which my conscience will not allow me to compromise. I must not intrude upon you an exposition of those principles, but trust that your conference will believe that I am influenced only by what appears to me to be my duty in a very delicate matter.

We honor the Lord Bishop's principles, but we wish his Lordship had expressed them unreservedly.

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IT IS STATED that Arabi, in a manly and well expressed letter, published in the *Times*, says, he accepts exile with a light heart, knowing that England cannot longer delay the reforms for which he fought. He claims to have struggled to preserve Egypt which he loves and shall ever love from the pest of a crowd of foreign employes ; to give his country pure law Courts and a Chamber of Notables, and to relieve the fellahs from the intolerable burdens of usury. Arabi expresses his confidence that England will secure to Egypt what he failed to accomplish. He does not repine at his fate, but leaves Egypt with the assurance that the justice of his cause will become more and more apparent.

IT HAS BEEN brought to the notice of Government that rumours have been current to the effect that Government contemplates making a reduction in the existing rate of salt duty. Intimation is hereby given that Government has no present intention of making any reduction in the rate of duty prevailing since the 10th March 1882.—*Press Commissioner's Office.*

WE HAVE received a copy of a memorial of the Brahma Samaj to Government for the recognition of their festivals as public holidays. The more the merrier.

THE TOTAL NUMBER of deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 23rd December last was 359, that is to say, from cholera 97, small-pox 1, fevers 91, bowel-complaints 50, suicide 1, accidents 6, and all other causes 113. The rate of cholera mortality, though it has abated, is still high. The worst wards in respect of cholera are wards Nos. 4, 5, and 6. The Health-Officer ought to enquire into the causes of exceptional prevalence of cholera in these wards.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. The Minority Report of the School Committee of the House of Commons on the Contagious Diseases Act. 2. Suggestions respecting forests in Kulu. By W. Schlich, officiating Inspector General of Forests to the Government of India. 3. Protestant Missionaries in India, Burmah and Ceylon. Statistical tables, 1881. Thacker and Co. 4. Raj-Jibani or the Life of the Prince Consort. By Gopal Chunder Mukhopadhya. 5. The Tagore Family. By J. W. Furrell. London. 6 Probandasar. Part 1. By Ananda Chunder Mitter. 7. Padyasar. By Ananda Chunder Mitter. 8. A Cursory Notice of certain statements in Revd J. Johnston's Reply. By His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore. 9. Journal of the National Indian Association for December 1882. 10. Why should India pay for the conquest of Egypt? A paper read before the East India Association. By H. M. Hyndman, Esq. 11. Popular edition of Tod's Rajasthan Nos. III. and IV. Published by Brojendra Lal Das. 12. Hindu Darsana for Sraban 1289, B.E. 13. Stationery Trades' Journal, Vol III. No 33, London. 14. Hymn in praise of Lord Ripon in Bengali, with English translation. By Gungadhur Chatterjee. 15. Christmas Supplement to People's Budget. 16. Statement submitted to the Education Commission. By the Hon'ble Rao Saheb V. N. Mandlik, C.S.I. 17. Indian Telegraph Guide. No XVII. Parts I. and II.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, December 24.—The *Times*, in a leading article, announces that England will shortly send a despatch to the Powers explaining her intentions in regard to Egypt, and setting forth a scheme for that country's complete organisation. An official telegram from Egypt states that two of the Bedouins who murdered Professor Palmer and his party have been captured, and that the capture of the remainder is expected in a fortnight. Advices from Natal state that cetewayo is shortly to be reinstated and that John Dunn's authority will probably be superseded.

25.—Sir charles Dilke has been appointed president of the Local Government Board, and the Right Honorable John Dodson has been appointed chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and they will have seats in the cabinet.

27.—Advices from Dublin state that the *United Ireland* has been seized and that the Editor is to be prosecuted for an article denouncing the late executions of murderers. Westgate, the self-accused murderer of Lord Frederick Cavendish, has been discharged.

28.—Arabi and party sailed yesterday from Suez in the Steamer *Mareotis* for Ceylon. A vacancy has occurred in the representation of Mallow, owing to the resignation of Mr. Johnson, who has been appointed a Judge.

28.—In the case of Belt *versus* Lawes, in which Mr. Belt, the Sculptor, brought an action against Lawes for libel, a verdict has been given for the plaintiff, with five thousand pounds damages.

29.—A colossal chimney at Bradford fell yesterday crushing a workshop, and killing 36 people, and wounding 50. Parliament is summoned to meet on February 15th for the despatch of business. Cardinal Newman is suffering from an attack of bronchitis.

Cairo, December 26.—Arabi and his associates have been publicly degraded, and will sail to-day for Ceylon.

26.—Khedive has banished the principal remaining leaders of the late rebellion for various terms of years.

Berlin, December 23.—Reassuring semi-official articles which have appeared have removed the scare which existed respecting the relations between Russia and Germany.

Paris, December 24.—In consequence of the withdrawal of the chinese troops from Tonquin, only 750 French troops are being sent there at present.

28.—750 French troops sailed to-day for Tonquin. A commissioner accompanied them for the purpose of negociating a treaty with Annam, recognizing afresh the French protectorate over that country. M. Gambetta is suffering from abscess of the intestines.

Rome, December 25.—M. Oberdank, an Italian subject who was recently tried at Trieste and sentenced to death for conspiring against the Austrian Government, has been executed. His execution has provoked Anti-Austrian demonstrations at Rome, Milan and Turin.

OWING TO press of matter we are compelled to keep back till our next the concluding portion of the report of the last General Meeting of the British Indian Association given in the Supplement.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 1883.

RETROSPECT OF 1882.

THE OLD YEAR is buried. The New Year commences to-day. Peace smiled over the land throughout the year. There were two slight commotions we mean the Khund rising and the Salem riots, but they did not disturb the general tranquility of the empire. The only war in which the Indian troops were engaged was that in Egypt, but India was not responsible for that war. It was an imperial war, for the prosecution of which England availed herself of the services of Indian soldiers. Peace at home enabled the Viceroy to apply himself assiduously to problems of domestic administration. As the year rolled on the beneficent policy of His Excellency developed itself more and more, justifying the confidence which the public had from the first reposed in his judgment, generous sympathies, and high-minded statesmanship. The crops were abundant, and although the agriculturists, particularly in Bengal, bitterly complained of fall in price, the general population benefitted by it. The fall in the price of provisions did not lead to a fall in the wages of labour. The demand for labour did not abate ; on the contrary it increased in consequence of extension of railways, canals and other works. The public health was with the exception of parts of the country on the whole fairly good.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

In the beginning of last year India was shocked with the intelligence of a dastardly attempt on the life of our beloved Queen-Empress. This intelligence filled the civilized world with indignation and horror. Her Majesty's Indian subjects could hardly conceive that there could be an Englishman, so dead to all feelings of loyalty, humanity, and gratitude as to aim a deadly blow at the life of a Sovereign, who is a pattern of domestic and public virtues, who is full of the milk of human kindness, and who is truly a Mother to the hundreds of millions, who have the happiness of living under Her beneficent sway. Happily the wretch proved a mania. The All-merciful Providence shielded the Queen-Mother from the foul hand of the assassin, and thus saved her subjects all the world over a pang which would have pierced their hearts. Prayers and incantations were sent up to Heaven for His benevolent dispensation, and addresses of sympathy poured in from all parts of the British dominions and also from foreign states, not as formal manifestations of feeling but as sincere outpourings of the heart. India took an active and prominent part in this demonstration of loyal affection and esteem. Soon after the subsidence of feeling on this subject broke out the war in Egypt, for which England was solely and wholly responsible. The cause of the war as far as England was concerned was trivial. The Nationalists of Egypt were not satisfied with the Khedive's rule. They said that by degrees the national control over national affairs was passing away. Foreign loans had been paving the way to foreign domination. The foreign bondholders wanted to assert a voice potential in the administration of the Egyptian exchequer. The result was that foreign control over Egypt was supreme. This control was divided between England and France. In the

Council Chamber, in the departments, and in the public offices the foreign element was strong. The predominance of the foreign influence naturally enough filled the Nationalists with discontent, and they sought to inaugurate a National Government. They accordingly made a combination against the Khedive, but England and France lent him the shield of protection. At first the two foreign countries acted in concert, but when the time for action came France slipped out and left the whole responsibility of the situation to England. Complications threatened the affairs of Egypt. It was rumoured that the Sultan of Turkey sympathized with the Nationalists, and secretly assisted and encouraged them. It was also rumoured that Prussia would cooperate with Turkey in holding the balance of power in Egypt. The situation was thus menacing, but England made a dashing effort, and at once bombarded Alexandria. The ostensible reason was the protection of the Suez Canal, but the real reason as we conceive was the maintenance of the imperial ascendancy of England in Egypt. Arabi Pasha, the leader of the Nationalists, did not molest the world's commerce, which passed the Suez Canal ; he observed almost religious neutrality in this matter, but England's guns could not be silenced. Thus England was primarily responsible for the work of destruction committed in the land of the Pharaos. Practically it was the hostile attitude of England, which brought on the armed collision between her and the Nationalists. To fight her battles she sent out her own children and also indented troops from India. Whatever the cause of the war, and whatever the issues involved, India had one duty before her—she ought to respond heartily and cheerfully to the call for aid from England, and nothing could surpass the earnestness, alacrity and enthusiasm with which Indian soldiers placed their services at the disposal of their Sovereign. The Native Princes vied with each other in offering their troops for service in Egypt, and although the Government of India did not deem it necessary to employ their men, it readily recognized the loyal and honorable feelings, which prompted the offer. The Indian Contingent did their work well and gloriously. They vindicated Indian loyalty, Indian military training, and Indian attachment to the British Crown. The war in Egypt was concluded quickly, and the Indian troops were not therefore detained there long. On return they were welcomed at Bombay where they met with the most enthusiastic ovations. Some selected men were taken to England for presentation to the Queen-Empress, and there they were received with the utmost cordiality. They were honored by the Queen-Empress, Parliament, and the great British nation. The services rendered by the Indian Contingent in the Egyptian war served as a fresh bond of union between England and India. But we are sorry to say that the general sympathy of England with Indian affairs was by no means active during the last year. Notwithstanding the conspicuous services rendered by India in the Egyptian war, England through her Government has determined to throw upon India the cost of her Contingent.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

There was nothing like a regular debate on Indian matters in Parliament during the last year. The only debate worth mention was that on the Indian Budget, but it was desultory and inconsequential. The relegation of Mr. Fawcett to the Ministry has deprived India of the advocacy of the ablest champion of India. Even Sir George Campbell was less active. Mr. Onslow now and then evinced some interest. The brunt of the battle was left to Mr. O'Donnell. This gentleman endeavours to keep India constantly before the House by a running fire of questions, which the Secretary of State sometimes find it inconvenient to answer. Although it is to be regretted that owing to the dispersion of the Indian force in the House of Commons only skirmishes are attempted here and there, still something is better than nothing. The range of Indian subjects which Mr. O'Donnell brought under the notice of Parliament was wide enough, and one effect of his interrogatories was that the local Governors were imbued with a wholesome dread of Parliamentary agitation. Nothing escapes the lynx eye of Mr. O'Donnell, things

big or small equally come under his observation, and his information has been generally correct. The Secretary of State did not evidently like the badger, but he must pay the penalty of his position. When a question is put, he must answer it, and in order to give a proper and satisfactory answer, he must read up and take notes. In this way Lord Hartington was compelled to study questions, to which His Lordship would not perhaps have otherwise turned his attention. So far it was a gain to India. Her misfortune is that her responsible Ruler seldom condescends to the drudgery of examining the details of Indian administration. And Indian administration for the most part consists of a vast mass of details. Important principles now and then come to the surface, but the general principles of Indian administration are well understood, and if they be honestly carried out, there will be little room for complaint. Of the Indian questions, which came before Parliament during the past year, the question of the payment of the cost of the Indian contingent for Egypt, the reduction of the military charges of India, English taxation on Indian silver work, and jail mortality deserve particular mention. The absence of active discussion of Indian politics in Parliament during the past year was a reflex of the apathy of the general British public to Indian affairs. The state of Ireland completely absorbed the attention of the public and Parliament.

PERSONNEL OF GOVERNMENT.

THERE WERE many changes in the *personnel* of the Indian Government during the past year. At the close of the year the Great Mogul of Westminster Hotel changed place. Lord Hartington has gone over to the War Office, and made room for Lord Kimberley at the India Office. His Lordship was ill at ease in charge of Indian affairs. The subject was not congenial to him, and as it involved an endless mass of details, it interfered with his Lordship's Parliamentary work. This was of course a misfortune to India. For possessed of a singularly clear mind, strong common sense, liberal and benevolent feelings and an earnest desire to do justice, His Lordship whenever he applied himself to Indian questions generally arrived at sound and just conclusions. But he was more a British than an Indian statesman. It was rumoured that Lord Derby would join the cabinet and assume the portfolio of India. The announcement naturally enough raised high hopes in India. Lord Derby was well-known to, and himself well knew, India. His Lordship would have therefore been heartily welcomed by the people of India as the Secretary of State for India. But as the fates would have it His Lordship has taken the Colonial Office, and Lord Kimberley the India Office. Lord Kimberley knows the Colonies well, and is thoroughly acquainted with the system of colonial administration. In some respects there is analogy between Colonial and Indian administration, and in so far his Lordship may be treading on familiar ground, but the details of Indian administration are completely new to him, and it will take him some time to master them. In India there have been most important changes in the *personnel* of the Government. The Indian proconsulship is limited to five years as a rule; it may be extended now and then; some proconsul may choose to leave earlier, but every sixth year there is generally a change. Accordingly three Lieutenant-Governorships in the Bengal Presidency fell vacant in the beginning of last year. Sir Ashley Eden, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, had received one year's extension, and would have stayed on to the end of his extended term, had it not been for a vacancy in the Indian Council. Sir Erskin Perry had resigned his seat in the Indian Council, and the vacancy thus caused was offered to Sir Ashley Eden, who accepted the offer, and accordingly left the country six months before the expiration of his time. His approaching departure was made memorable by the distinguished honours done to him by all sections of the community. The fortnight preceding his departure presented a spectacle the like of which had never before been seen in Calcutta. Dinners, evening parties, re-unions, balls, and other social demonstrations followed each other in quick succession; the personal friends of Sir Ashley Eden and the different sections of the public vied with each other in doing honor to their common friend. A public meeting of his admirers was held at the Town Hall, presided over by the Chief Justice, and attended by representative men of all classes, particularly from the districts, which voted him a statue. The European community, who had joined the public meeting, also separately honored him through their representative bodies. Both the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades' Association resolved to preserve his likeness on the canvas. A most touching scene took place on the day of his departure. The natural leaders of the people, representing all the important districts of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, uninvited had mustered strong on the river-bank to bid him farewell, and there was hardly a man among them, who did not shed tears at the departure of a ruler, whom every one of them regarded as *his* best friend. Thus left amid the sighs and blessings of a grateful people one of the ablest, strongest and most large-hearted Indian Proconsuls that ever wielded the sceptre. History does not record of a Bengal Governor who was so loved and so honored. Sir Ashley Eden has been succeeded by Mr. Rivers Thompson, who has ascended the *mnsnud* at Belvedere with an unsullied reputation. Possessed of varied experience, having served as Collector, Judge, Divisional Commissioner, Chief Secretary to Government, Chief Commissioner of a province and Member of the Supreme Council, there is not a department of work with which he is not thoroughly acquainted. Conscientious, sympathizing, and liberal in his views and feelings, he possesses the necessary qualifications to make a successful Ruler of men, and his nine months' work has fully justified the high hopes which his antecedents have raised in the public mind. Mr. Thompson has been succeeded in the Supreme Council by Sir Steuart Bayley, who as Commissioner of Patna made his mark in the administration of famine relief measures in 1873-74. Although quiet and somewhat reserved, he has the stuff of a vigorous administrator in him, and we believe it is almost settled that he comes to Belvedere after Mr. Thompson. A new member has been appointed to the Supreme Council in the person of Mr. T. C. Hope. The office of Minister of Public Works has been revived. We had been from the first opposed to the creation of this office, but we confess the appointment of Mr. Hope has reconciled us to it. There are now so many Railway and Canal projects before Government that it is necessary to secure for them the undivided attention of a responsible member of Government. A more industrious, cautious and single-minded man could not have been entrusted with this work than Mr. Hope. In about the middle of the year Mr. Whitley Stokes, the Law Member, laid down his portfolio. Although a profound lawyer and a clever draftsman, he was not certainly the round man in the round hole. The Law Member of the Government of India ought to be more than a mere lawyer. He ought to be a jurist, and a statesman. But Mr. Whitley Stokes was neither. He did not know the world nor did the world know him. He was a recluse, a closet thinker, and was therefore ill-fitted to adapt the laws to the circumstances of the people of this country with whose sentiments, feelings and opinions he did not sympathize. He evolved laws out of the bowels of his own consciousness, copied of course from the English statute-book, and the result was that he committed egregious blunders. He was again so much self-opinionated that he would not listen to the advice of any friend or outsider. No wonder then that his legislative labours inspired no respect or confidence. He has been succeeded by Mr. Ilbert, perhaps the youngest lawyer that has ever held the office. He is an academician of the highest repute, a learned student of jurisprudence, and a trusted pupil of Sir Henry Thring. He is liberal in his views, generous in his feelings, and earnest and sincere in his desire for the welfare of the people. His public utterances have fully sustained the character which he has brought to this country. It is enough for us to say that one of his first acts was to give his support to Lord Ripon and Major Baring in appointing Mr. Justice Romesh Chunder Mitter to be acting Chief Justice of Bengal. In the beginning of the year the Lieutenant-Governorships of the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab became vacant. Sir George Couper and Sir Robert Egerton both retired. Neither of them has left much mark on the provinces over which they respectively held sway. If any thing, Sir George Couper will be remembered as an intolerant, unsympathizing and hard-hearted ruler. The people of the North Western Provinces used to call him "sleepy Governor." Sir Robert Egerton was a better man, but he too was a conservative and narrow-minded administrator. He, however, shewed considerable energy during the Affghan war. Both of them have been succeeded by two very clever and accomplished gentlemen, and experienced administrators, we allude to Sir Alfred Lyall and Sir Charles Aitchison. Both of them are endowed with high intellectual gifts, both are saturated with the spirit of the time, both are advocates of progress, and both seem to be sincerely desirous to help the intellectual, social moral and political advancement of the people We wish them success.

LEGISLATION.

The fever of legislation was in its paroxysm last year. It was the last year of the official existence of the Law Member, and he naturally sought to crowd legislation within the short space of time left to him. The year opened with a portentous Bill for the poor labourers in the wilds of Assam. This Bill was so one-sided, so favourable to the planter and so unfavourable to the coolie that we ventured to call it the Indian Slave Bill. Of course the benevolent statesman at the head of the Government, we are satisfied, would not have lent his countenance to such a one-sided measure if he had before been acquainted with its true character, scope, and tendency. But the testimony, which was accessible to him, was in the same manner one-sided. Even the Commander-in-Chief had been hoodwinked. We only wonder how such a knowing observer as Mr. Rivers Thompson could be deluded. Fellow-feeling makes us kind—sometimes blind. Possibly the iterated tales of success of tea-planting from brother officers and fellow-countrymen and stories of coolie rascality and scoundrelism, all pitched to an unvarying key, had dulled the keen sense of justice in conscientious men like Mr. Thompson, Mr. Reynolds and General Stewart, and they had accordingly given their adhesion to the Bill. It is not necessary for us to recapitulate the arguments, which we advanced against the Bill— it is enough for us to say that while the maximum wages of the cooly were fixed at Rs. 6 per month, the Government itself pays for commissariat coolies 8 Rs. a month, while with the latter the contract is made not for five years but for three years, not unfrequently for less. We must, however, do Lord Ripon and Mr. Rivers Thompson the justice to say that after passing the Bill they have gone into the subject fully, and in the instructions they have issued for the working of the Act they have taken every necessary precaution against abuse. The difference between their instructions and the law is, however, obvious enough; in the one case attempt is made to control the discretion of the executive officer, while in the other the law vests them with discretion. There is one point connected with these instructions to which we attach great weight —it is the details in respect of the practical working of the Act which the annual report must contain. These details if collected and compiled in the way enjoined by the Government of India will we may say supply a mirror as it were through which the real facts will be reflected. The last year witnessed the enactment of the several Codification Bills, which formed we might say the life's ambition of the late Law Member. The reader might recollect the history of these Bills. They had been proposed by him immediately on his accession to office. At first Lord Lytton, who had then just arrived in this country, did not take much interest in the work or perhaps did not realize its full magnitude. But when the revolutionary character of the Bills was explained to him, he was alarmed, and wanted to shelve them. Mr. Stokes, however, persuaded him against his better reason to refer the matter to the Secretary of State, who evi-

dently worked upon by the law member's master at home, Sir Henry Maine, advised a Committee for the consideration of the Bills. Accordingly a Committee was appointed of which Mr. Stokes was the Chairman. This Committee submitted a wonderfully constructed report, recommending the passing of the Bills with certain modifications. Accordingly these Bills have been passed into law. But we do not know which to admire most, the pertinacity with which the Bills were passed or the mangled form in which they were embodied. Three of these Bills were passed, viz. 1 The Indian Trusts Bill. 2 The Transfer of Property Bill. 3 The Easements Bill. The first Bill had not been much altered in the form in which it had been originally introduced. The second was completely emasculated before it was enacted into law. The third was extended to one province only, the Central Provinces, all the other Provincial Governments repudiated it. So much for the Codification Bills. There was another codifying measure, viz., the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, but it was not an original measure. It was based upon the Act of Sir James Stephen, and we must do Mr. Stokes the justice to say that it is an improvement upon its predecessor. If he had been better acquainted with the circumstances of the country, with the vagaries of the Magistracy and the Police, with the insolence with which the liberty of the subject was trodden down upon, and with the absence in the Mofussil of all salutary checks upon abuse of power, we feel persuaded that he would not have still left untouched those provisions of the law, which place the people at the mercy of the executive and the police. The only other measure which calls for notice was the Petroleum Bill. That Bill shewed the miserable dependence of the Government of India upon the pleasure of the Secretary of State for India. It would seem that some American speculators had moved some members of the Indian Council for a law on the subject of petroleum, and the Governor-General in Council was directed to pass a Bill. The timely protest of the Calcutta merchants, however, saved the credit and dignity of the Government of India. We hope the history of this Bill will be a salutary lesson to both the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

FINANCE.

Major Baring assumed charge of the national exchequer after a great financial bungle, we refer to Sir John Strachey's blunder about Affghan war estimates. The new Finance Minister naturally first sought to put the house in order before inaugurating any new policy. His first Budget was consequently a tentative one. His second Budget shewed that a master mind had come to preside over the Exchequer. Our prediction has been fulfilled to the letter. Major Baring has shewn not only a thorough mastery of details but a firm grasp of sound economic principles. The leading features of his second Budget were as follows: Including the war expenditure the accounts of 1880-81 shewed a deficit of £4,044,000, but excluding it a surplus of £6,320,000. The accounts of 1881-82 closed with a surplus of £1,577,000; the estimates for the ensuing year shewed a surplus of £285,000. If no taxes were taken off and the opium revenue were taken at £7,250,000 net, the surplus would be £3,171,000. The patwari cess in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh was abolished, involving a remission of taxation to the extent of £316,000; the cotton duties and the general import duties were abolished resulting in the remission of taxation to the extent of £1,219,000; the salt duty was reduced to Rs. 2 all round, involving a remission of taxation to the extent of £1,400,000. The position and prospects of the subordinate executive service were to be improved at a cost of £50,000 per annum. The provincial contracts were liberally arranged. The opium estimate as we contended last year was raised to a proper figure, viz, £7,250,000. A new source of investment was opened to small capitalists by the issue of Stock Notes of small value. The closing cash balance of the current year was estimated at £14,200,000. The balance on the 31st March 1883 was estimated at £10.848,000. Major Baring remarked: "The business of the country can be carried on with a cash balance of £8,000,000, but is it not desirable that the balance should be allowed to sink below £8,500,000. A closing cash balance of £10,848,000 would correspond with a balance of about £7,400,000 in the month of November. According to this estimate, therefore, the balances would require strengthening during the year to the extent of £1,000,000 to £1,500,000." It was added that if the revenue did not prove sufficiently elastic a loan to the extent of a million and a half might be raised during the year. But circumstances compelled Government to raise a loan of two and a half millions. How far this increased loan was necessitated by the Egyptian war we cannot in the present state of our information say.

Nothing could be more gratifying and assuring than the policy of the Budget. It was at once enlightened, liberal, and statesmanlike. With regard to the improvement of the prospects of the Subordinate Executive Service Major Baring said:

> Both from the political and administrative point of view the class of Deputy Collectors is one of very great importance. A large proportion of the sub-divisional charges of British India is in their hands. The sub-divisional officer is the man upon whom, in quiet times, the Government has to rely for efficient and equitable administration, and, in time of famine or disturbance, for energy, resource, and fortitude. Whether recruited from among the Tahsildar and Sub-Deputy class, or directly from without, they ought to be the cream of that portion of the Native community who are willing to embrace an official career. To fulfil this requirement they ought to receive sufficient pay throughout their career.

But the benefit of the proposed increase was not confined to the Subordinate Executive Service. While we congratulate the Subordinate Judicial Service on the justice which has at last been done to it, we must confess that full justice has not been done to the Subordinate Executive Service, although the proposal originally embraced the Subordinate Executive Service only. The policy of decentralization of finance has been carried out in a liberal spirit. The general result of the arrangements made is that about three-fifths of the revenue of British India, amounting roughly to £42,000,000, and about one-fourth of the expenditure, amounting roughly to £19,000,000, will be provincialised; that is to say, the Provincial Governments will have to a greater or less extent, according to the circumstances of each head, and interest in and responsibility for their administration. Unfortunately under the present arrangements Bengal benefits less than the other provinces, and the reason apparently is that Bengal, notwithstanding the much-abused Permanent Settlement, is the richest province. Major Baring says: "It is well known that the financial condition of Bengal, partly owing to the great natural resources of the Province and partly to the able and vigorous administration of the present Lieutenant-Governor, is very flourishing. We are of opinion, therefore that, without in any way embarassing Bengal finances, we may withdraw from Bengal some portion of the grant from Imperial Revenues, which it has enjoyed during the last five years, and indeed, that in justice to other Provinces we ought to do so." As usual Bengal has been the milch-cow. Major Baring gave renewed assurances for the encouragement of indigenous industry and private enterprize for the execution of Railways and other works of public usefulness. The sound and broad views he took of the opium question we are glad to note were quite in accord with those which we have from time to time expressed in these columns. Of course Major Baring's views are not accepted by the anti-opiumists. But those who have a practical acquaintance with the subject cannot fail to appreciate the full force of his facts and arguments. Take away the opium revenue, and India will be bankrupt.

The policy of the remission of taxation did not quite commend itself to us. In the first place we doubted whether the state of the finances was such as to admit of the surrender of three millions of revenue. The demands of a growing civilization and progressive government were too numerous, and they could be met only by a prosperous treasury. Happily the finances were flourishing, and if the revenues had not been cut down they would have greatly helped Government in giving effect to many important, much-needed, but long-neglected reforms. For instance the labours of the Education Commission shew that much remains to be done in the way of advancement of high education and extension of primary education. But the greatest drawback has been want of money. Similarly the system of administration of justice loudly calls for reform, but here too well-matured schemes of reforms have been kept back for want of money. Again, the Government is about to confer on the people the boon of local self-government, but the Local Boards will not be able to do much without money. Unless the Government put them in sufficient funds, they will simply die of starvation. But the Provincial Governments cannot be expected to furnish them with adequate ways and means unless the Supreme Government endows them with necessary resources. But the Government of India has crippled its own means by surrendering no less than three millions of revenue. The subjects selected for the remission of revenue did not we are constrained to say accord with intelligent native opinion. Firstly, the reduction of the Salt Duty: It is a most unobjectionable source of revenue; it does not press even upon the poorest of the poor; it is levied with perfect ease and facility; it involves no inquisitorial enquiry and causes no irritation, annoyance or oppression; the people hardly know that they pay a tax on the salt they eat. To sacrifice such a good source of revenue to any extent on sentimental grounds was in our humble opinion a sheer waste of power. The Finance Minister had hoped to recoup the loss by increased consumption, but this hope has not been fully realized. The remission of the cotton duties, Major Baring held, had been forced upon him, and the abolition of the import duties was a logical sequence of it. He said that the partial remission of the cotton duties had brought about a new kind of protection among Manchester goods. So much for the financial statesmanship of Sir John Strachey. Surely our rulers ought to have foreseen all this—but Lord Lytton said at Manchester that he did foresee it, but that he deliberately took the tortuous course in order to bring about the total repeal of the duties sooner or later. This is honest statesmanship. The people of India do not care for the personnel of the Government; it is all the same to them whether it be Lord This or Lord That, who is in charge of the coach of the State for the time being; they know that it is Queen Victoria, who wields the sceptre, and that it is the British nation, which is primarily responsible for the good government of the country, and what must their feeling be when they see that their interests are deliberately sacrificed for the sake of the manufacturers and merchants of England.

The experiment of the Stock Notes has not been attended with the desired success. It has failed to attract the attention of the rural and industrial classes, for whose benefit this new mode of investment has been designed. But the trial has been too short, and decisive opinion cannot be pronounced upon it. The Famine Insurance Fund, as worked by Sir John Strachey, was a public scandal. But under the honest Government of Lord Ripon and Major Baring the Famine Insurance Fund will no longer remain a myth, it will be supplied from the general revenues, and its functions will be (1) famine relief, (2) execution of public works and (3) reduction of debt. With regard to the first two the Government will take direct action, but as to the third the Government has appointed a Commission consisting of the Comptroller General of Accounts, Mr. J. J. Keswick, and the Hon'ble Durgachurn Law, who will ordinarily hold office for two years. This is a move in the right direction. The new loan of two and a half crores was not so successful as was expected. It was taken up at a discount. We cannot conclude this part of the subject without recording our high appreciation of the manly protest of the Government of India against the attempt made by the Home Government to saddle India with the cost of the Indian contingent for Egypt.

FOREIGN POLICY.

Lord Ripon is not a patron of Jingoism, and does not, therefore, favour what is usually called

spirited foreign policy. Under his Lordship's rule the Native Princes enjoy the piping time of peace. If they are on good terms with the Political Residents in their courts they have little to fear. The most noticeable event connected with the Native States during the past year was a demonstration of their loyalty to the Paramount Power for which the Egyptian War afforded a signal opportunity. Her Majesty's Government called upon the Government of India to furnish an Indian contingent for Egypt, and hearing this the leading Native Princes offered the services of their troops. The Government had enough men to spare, and so it was not under the necessity to accept their offer. But the feeling, which prompted the Chiefs to make the offer, was highly honorable and laudable. And the Government did not fail to appreciate that feeling. Lord Ripon graciously conveyed the thanks of Her Majesty to them. This was the third loyal demonstration of the kind made by the Native Princes of India. The first was when the Affghan Expedition was made. The second at the time of the Malta expedition. These loyal demonstrations shew that the Native Princes are at one in feeling with the British Government. The past year marked an era in the annals of Jeypore. It witnessed the formal installation of His Highness the Maharaja of Jeypore. The present Maharaja, the reader might recollect, was adopted by the late Maharaja, and during his minority the affairs of the State were administered by a Council of Regency presided over by the Political Agent. His Highness was, however, allowed an opportunity to familiarize himself with the business of the State by attending to the work of different departments. In installing him on the *gaddi* Colonel Walters said : "On this day you complete your 21st and enter on your 22nd year and His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India in Council has directed me to invest your Highness with full governing powers. It is a great pleasure to me to carry out this duty." Jeypore is a model State. A higher testimony could not be borne to the administration of a native State than what Col. Walters said in his installation speech. It shewed what native statesmanship could achieve in the way of promotion of good government without revolutionizing Native ideas and habits. The present Maharaja of Jeypore has come to a proud heritage, and we sincerely and earnestly hope that His Highness will rise to the height of his situation. Although not acquainted with English, His Highness is reputed to be intelligent, sensible, and circumspect. We trust he will tread in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor. During the past year the Gaikwar of Baroda assumed the reins of his Government. His Highness has acquired a knowledge of English, and seems to be fully alive to the responsibilities of his high position. He attends the Durbar regularly from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., makes all the departmental officers attend with the same regularity, looks into every thing with his own eyes, and the orders which he issues are said to be generally sound. If all that we hear about His Highness be true, Baroda under the rule of the present Gaikwar has a great future before it. We, however, regret to hear that there is not much love lost between His Highness and his Minister Raja Sir Madhava Rao. We do hope that the rumours which reach us on this subject are greatly exaggerated. We need hardly tell His Highness that he could not have an abler, more sagacious, and more experienced minister than Sir Madhava Rao. The state of Mysore was also under the experiment of independent native administration during the past year. The Maharaja of Mysore is a delicate youth, and is not apparently so advanced as the Gaikwar of Baroda. But in Mr. Runga Charloo he has got a most able, energetic, and honest minister. The task of reconstructing the State after the retirement of the British Government devolved upon him, and the Dewan, aided of course by the Resident Sir James Gordon, has performed his work most efficiently. There has been no friction between the State of Mysore and the British Government in consequence of the transfer of Government; the Native agency has glided smoothly into the place of the European agency, and the people of Mysore hardly feel the change. A progressive policy has been inaugurated. The people are taken into confidence in deliberations on matters of State. A sort of Parliament has been introduced, in which two hundred representatives of the people sit annually to discuss questions connected with the administration of the State. Following the example of the British Government the minister has matured a scheme of local self-government. Another Native Prince is also working admirably, we allude to the Maharaja of Travancore. His Highness in early life gave much promise of future excellence, and in his present high position has given ample proofs of his ability and willingness to redeem that promise. His Highness rules in the spirit of western civilization, and takes a warm interest in the welfare of his people. His Highness sometimes evinces an interest in imperial questions, for instance in the question of education. He visited Northern India and Calcutta during the past year. The only State regarding which the Anglo-Indian public shewed some anxiety is Kashmir; we regret much that the illness of the Maharaja prevents him from completing the reforms which he has long contemplated in the system of his administration. Our Government was on the brink of a war with the Court of Ava, but the moderation of Lord Ripon averted that calamity. An Embassy from Ava waited upon His Excellency, and negociations were in progress for a new treaty, but we are sorry to state that owing to some misunderstanding these negociations dropped. There are rumours of a renewal of the negociations.

DOMESTIC POLICY.

The domestic policy of Lord Ripon received a remarkable developement during the past year. One of his first acts was the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act. His Lordship gave it a quiet burial. The Vernacular Press was liberated and the nation's joy knew no bounds. Not only was the freedom of Indian thought restored but India's loyalty was vindicated. Then came his Lordship's manifesto on the subject of local self-government. For a century and a quarter has Britannia ruled India, and manifold have been the blessings which she has conferred upon the millions of this country. But no British ruler had before thought that England's mission in the East would not be fulfilled, if her children were not taught the art of self-government. Hitherto the policy was that the Government should think and act for the people. It was left to Lord Ripon to inaugurate the new policy of allowing the people to think for themselves, to administer their own affairs, and to spend their own money for their own benefit. Local self-government there was in one sense, but not in the spirit in which the civilized world understands it and Lord Ripon wants it. Municipal Committees and Local Committees there were in abundance, but they were nominated by Government, and the independent element was generally eschewed in their composition. Lord Ripon wishes to employ the scheme of local self-government not merely as an administrative machinery, but as a means of political education, and it is in this light it is viewed by the people with so much interest—aye, enthusiasm. The greatest merit of the measure is that it is not being wrung by an excited people from a reluctant Government, but that it is being voluntarily offered by the Ruler of the land out of pure good grace and with the utmost generosity to a susceptible and grateful population. There have been initiated many other measures in conformity with the enlightened spirit, which animates the present Government of India. In ruling the country Lord Ripon wishes to walk in broad day-light, and so his Lordship has resolved to take necessary steps to give wide publicity to legislative bills, and to encourage the press to act its part properly as the exponent of popular opinion. His Lordship is keenly alive to the duty of the State to foster indegenous talent in the service of the country, and has already taken several steps towards that end. In the Forest Department, in the Public Works Department, and in the great public offices His Lordship has given facilities for the employment of natives, and promulgated rules for competitive examination. His Lordship has also come forward to offer special encouragement to native engineers to go to England and complete their education there. Under the auspices of His Lordship's Government a Native of India was for the first time appointed to act as the Chief Justice of the Bengal High Court. For the first time also a highly educated Mahomedan gentleman was appointed to act as a Judge of the North West High Court. Following the spirit of his Lordship's administration the Madras Government appointed a native gentleman to the bench of the local High Court. A native gentleman was appointed to act as Post Master General of the North Western Provinces. In humbler situations the employment of natives has been encouraged, to wit as engine-drivers and guards on Railways. His Lordship's attention has also been directed to the amelioration of the industrial and agricultural populations. Numerous Resolutions were issued from different departments for the encouragement of local manufactures. If the Local Governments and officers act in the spirit in which the Government of India has issued its instructions on the subject, a new era will dawn upon the country. There are materials and men enough in the country ; what is wanted for their efficient employment is capital, energy and skill, and these will not be wanting if the Government sincerely encourage them. Why should Indian money be sent out of the country for the purchase of articles, which might be easily produced here, if there was a demand for them? Lord Ripon has laid the foundation for the edifice of revived national industry, and we hope our countrymen will apply their mental and material resources to its construction and beautification. Nor is his Lordship's Government indifferent to the claims of the agricultural population. The Railways with which it is intersecting the country will enable the agriculturist or the producer to bring his produce to the best available market, and thus find suitable remuneration for his labour. His Lordship has issued a memorable Resolution for the remission and suspension of the State demand in times of distress and calamity. That Resolution is marked by a benevolent solicitude for the welfare of the agricultural population, which cannot be too highly admired. It is a legitimate outcome of the lessons of the Famine. Although it has not happily fallen to his Lordship's lot to deal with a famine, he is far-seeing enough to estimate its consequences, and has issued instructions for the mitigation of its effects by a well-devised system of remission and suspension of revenue. His Lordship also proposes to introduce a liberal system of agricultural loans. He has set his face against the taxation of the food of the people in any form, and accordingly vetoed the Abkari Bill of the Bombay Government, which sought to tax the mhowah flowers, an article of food with the rural classes of many parts of the Bombay Presidency.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION.

We have said at the outset that in the beginning of the year three Provinces had new Governors, *viz.*, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the Punjab, and Bengal. The new Proconsuls are gathering up the threads of business left by their predecessors. All the three are able and tried men, and have begun well. In the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces the tide has already turned, for it had run high against the educated natives. Happily the anti-feeling did not exist in Bengal and Mr. Thompson has had no difficulty to contend against in that direction. Sir Charles Aitchison has signalized the brief tenure of his office by obtaining a charter for the local University, and by throwing the Subordinate Executive Service open to the educated natives. Sir Alfred Lyall has saved the Agra College and has established an *entente cordiale* with the leaders of society and thought. Mr. Thompson has come in with the good will of all classes of the community, which was demonstrated to advantage when he lately toured through East Bengal and Behar. All the local Governments were busily employed during the past year with the consideration and elaboration of the scheme of local self-government adapted to the circumstances of their respective provinces. With the exception of the Bombay Government all the other local Governments have cordially seconded the policy of the Government of India. The different provincial schemes have been matured and are being gradually framed

into legislative bills. The general administration of the provinces has proceeded on the lines already laid down ; there was not much to distinguish it from the general run of events. Sir James Fergusson has not, we are sorry to note, done any thing to mitigate the sufferings of the Daccan ryots. He seems to be in the hands of the dominant Civilian clique. Mr. Grant Duff has we are grieved to say so far as he has hitherto gone on proved a failure. He talks much and writes much but does little. Not a single native gentleman comes from Madras but talks of him in bitter disappointment. The Chingleput business and the Salem riots attest his want of administrative capacity and courage. His recent treatment of the *Madras Times* shewed that he could not always keep temper. His attitude towards the educated natives has not been amiable. The way in which he treated Mr. Baxter shewed that he has not forgotten his old Parliamentary flippancy. In the Central Provinces the Khond rising for a time drew public attention to that dark corner of India. That rising was evidently due to the incapacity of the local officers to deal with the people. The Salem riots scandal was also due to the same cause. It has not yet been washed out. British Burmah flourishes under the fostering care of Mr. Bernard. That steady and painstaking administrator works hard—we are sorry to learn that ill-health compels him to go home immediately. Whether it be education, commerce, municipal improvement, or material advancement, nothing escapes the scrutiuizing eye of Mr. Bernard. We are only surprised that he has not been able to keep the dacoits under check. Evidently the Burman Police is not up to its work. Assam is also progressing. Mr. Elliot is an active and energetic administrator. He sees things with his own eyes—he goes to the villages to guage the feelings of the people. We only regret that he has brought radical ideas of land settlement from the North-Western Provinces, and has no respect for vested interests, and ancient rights. On the other hand strange to say he lends countenance to the system of forced labour because he thinks it is in accord with ancient custom. The general administration of the country has gone on smoothly, but the year as usual was marked by some bad cases of high-handed proceedings on the part of certain district officers, subversive alike of law and the liberty of the subject. We regret this the more because these high-handed proceedings have not ceased even under the benign rule of Lord Ripon. Strange to say that while the head of the Government shews so much consideration for the feelings of the people, and takes so much pains to secure them justice and fair play, there should be district officers—of course there are honorable exceptions—who should take pleasure as it were in overriding law, justice, and humanity. These cases have for obvious reasons come to notice more in Bengal than in the other provinces. We do not for a moment believe that the Bengal officers are worse or more given to outrage upon law and authority than their brethren in the other provinces, but here public opinion is more active and the people are more ready to expose misuse of power. The press is more powerful in Bengal than in the other provinces, and it helps in dragging into light abuses of power. These abuses will be, however, sufficiently checked, if the local Government will deal with them firmly. It would be presumptuous on our part to tell a veteran administrator like Mr. Thompson that the remedy lies in his hands.

GENERAL.

The last year was a year of general activity. The impetus was given by the inspiriting Resolutions of the Government of India on local self-government. There was not a corner of the country where the banner of self-government was not raised. Whether the people understood its true scope and character or not they all vied with each other in the demonstration of their joy and gratitude. The generous policy of the Government also encouraged different sections of the community to urge their claims to a fair share of the loaves and fishes of the public service. The Mahomedans were in this respect conspicuous last year. They submitted a memorial to the Government of India, which we believe has been referred to the local Governments for report. The different branches of the Public Service also cried out for the amelioration of their condition, but as yet only the Subordinate Judicial and Executive Services have received attention. We are of opinion that the grievances of the Subordinate Medical Service, Educational Service, and Ministerial Service, loudly call for redress. A cry went from Calcutta, joined in by the Barristers and Pleaders of the High Court, the merchants, zemindars, tradesmen, and the public generally, against the reduction of the salaries of the Judges of the Bengal High Court, but the Secretary of State has turned a deaf ear to it. The cry for mass education resulted in 1881 in the appointment of the Education Commission, but that Commission did the greatest part of its work during the past year. The President of the Commission made a triumphant progress throughout the Indian Continent, and wherever he went he evoked the utmost enthusiasm. In keeping with the general spirit of agitation was the Rent Bill controversy. That controversy was for a time suspended in consequence of the refusal of the Government of India to publish the Bill as last revised by the Government of Bengal and finally adopted by the Government of India, but it has been revived by the publication of Sir Richard Garth's minute upon the Bill, and Mr. Mackenzie's "mysterious minute" upon it. We have read both the documents, and we regret much the acrimonious discussions which have followed them. We cannot understand why such a grave subject as the Rent Bill should not be discussed with due gravity, without importing personal elements. It would be absurd to say that the Chief Justice has infringed the canons of Parliamentary etiquette. Another element of agitation during the year was the arrival of the Indian contingent of the Salvation Army ; some of the Captains of this Army were thrown into prison at Bombay, which evoked general indignation, and an indignation meeting was held in Calcutta under the leadership of Dr. Thoburn and Babu Keshub Chunder Sen. The Theosophists had also a campaign, but it was neither so stirring nor so perilous. The last but not the least was the Comet which caused considerable sensation and agitation throughout the country. Half the ills from which we are now suffering are attributed to its baleful presence. From public agitation and controversy we turn to the pleasant fields of commerce, industry, literature, and social and moral progress. Commerce was active enough during the past year, but the days of large profits have gone by never to return. In these days of Railways, Telegraphs, and Suez Canal Steamers there is so much competition that all merchants must be content with small profits. We have already said that national industry has received a new impetus from the new policy of the Government to encourage private enterprise and local manufactures. In the field of education thanks to the Education Commission there has been considerable activity, but our subordinate educational officers complain of starvation. Literature has been proverbially a drug in the Indian market, but we are glad to be able to say that Bengali literature is now beginning to pay. Some of our Bengali authors now-a-days live solely upon income derived from the sale of their books. Of course these are generally school-books, but the general works of standard authors also pay. During the year several additions were made to our periodical press both Vernacular and English. Science is flourishing in the Science Association. That Association has raised money for a decent home, the foundation-stone of which was laid in March last by His Excellency the Viceroy. Arts were not neglected, for we had an Art Exhibition in the beginning of the year. Drama has become one of our fashionable amusements, and the private theatres seem to pay. Thanks to the laudable efforts of Raja Shourindra Mohun Tagore Bahadoor, Mus. Doc. C. I. E., Indian Music has been elevated to the high rank, which it formerly occupied. An important movement has been set on foot in England, which has been seconded by the worthy Raja here, for the translation of the National Anthem into Indian languages. The religious movement is no longer confined to the Brahma Samaj, as it includes a vast number of Hari Sabhas of the orthodox pattern. The nationalization of Babu Keshub Chunder Sen's Samaj is a matter of national congratulation. During the year some attempts were made for cementing an union between European and Native gentlemen. The most important movement in this direction was the establishment of the Indian Club under the auspices of the Maharaja of Kuch Behar. In the annals of State honors the past year was distinguished by the bestowal of the Knighthood of the Star of India upon that pride of our country, the Maharaja Jotindra Mohun Tagore. He is the second Bengali Knight of the Star of India.

CALCUTTA.

The last year will remain memorable in the annals of Calcutta for the birth of the third City Parliament. The Municipal elections this year excited much greater interest than on the previous two occasions. The rate-payers in several wards banded themselves together for the election of their representatives. The contest in not a few instances raged fast and furious : it was in some cases scandalous. In one case a most deplorable combination was made to keep out the ablest representative of the town from the election. But as far as votes went the combination miserably broke down ; the whips who convassed for this candidate were too strong to be beaten down ; they brought him at the head of the poll for the ward. But on a technical point of law the opponents of the candidate carried the day. They had lost the battle before the Chairman of the Corporation, whose weak judgment, however, had paved the way to their victory. The matter was carried before a new Judge of the High Court, whose inexperience of the high-ways and bye-ways of Calcutta Society evidently led to the blunder which all Calcutta regrets so deeply. As far as we have been advised His Lordship had no jurisdiction in the matter, but he ruled otherwise, and disqualified a man for municipal election than whom an abler, more independent, and more zealous champion of the rate-payers has not sat in the Municipal Council. There were other scandals connected with the late elections. Two criminal prosecutions were instituted which as the sequel shewed were simply persecutions. In the one case a respectable elector, himself no way interested in the elections, had solely from motives of public spirit convassed for votes, and had kept in his house certain voting papers lodged by some electors. The Chairman instructed the Police to seize the papers, and to prosecute the man on a charge of theft. The electors themselves on hearing this addressed a letter to the Police Inspector that they had voluntarily kept their voting papers with him, but the Chairman would not listen to them, but pushed on the prosecution. The moment the case was laid before the Magistrate it broke down like a castle of cards, and his worship without calling upon the defence to go into evidence dismissed the charge. But who will compensate the unfortunate accused for the degradation, trouble, annoyance, and loss—the prosecution cost him Rs. 2500—which he suffered ? The other case caused greater sensation, and cost the accused it is said about Rs. 30,000. It had been first instituted by a private party, who however dropped it, but the Chairman took it up without knowing any thing about it. After passing through wearisome stages in the Police Court it was taken before the High Court, and the learned Judge who tried it said that there was no Penal Code charge sustainable against the accused, and that the prosecution was ill-advised. And yet this poor candidate for municipal honors was persecuted to the bitter end. The only satisfactory feature in the last elections of Calcutta was the increased interest taken by the European rate-payers. Several distinguished European gentlemen came forward and have been elected as Commissioners. Under the nominations made by Government several old and experienced Commissioners have gone out. The only other subject which caused excitement in the public mind during the past year was the proposal to establish a Central Railway station in Calcutta. It was not clear for whose benefit was this Railway station intended, while it would involve an enormous outlay of money. The native public have therefore to a man opposed this scheme. It remains to be seen whether the Government will set aside the deliberate opinion of the

native public in favour of the *zid* of certain engineers.

OBITUARY.

Some of the most eminent men of the day passed away during the past year. Among them we may mention Sir Erskine Perry, Sir George Grey, Dr. Pusey, Most Reverend Campbell Tait, General Corfield, Justice Lush, Vice-Chancellor Mallins, Anthony Trollope, Louis Blanc, Mr. Burnell and Sir David Wedderburn. Amongst Indians the most noteworthy were the Maharaja of Mourbhunj, Maharajah Sir Drigbejoy Sing, K. C. S. I., Col. Hedyat Ali, Babu Shama Churn Sircar, Babu Romanath Law, and Babu Mohesh Chunder Banerjea.

CONCLUSION.

The above is a brief and necessarily imperfect and hurried retrospect of the past year. It was as we have endeavoured to shew a year of Progress and Promise—Progress in several departments as the events shew, and Promise as the policy of the Viceroy regarding local self-government and other important matters signifies. It was a year of national activity, agitation and improvement. The central figure in this national drama was the Viceroy himself. It was he, who gave the impetus to national life, and as the time was ripe for action, the nation followed the impetus with alacrity and zeal. We hope the New Year will see the fruition of the schemes promised in the Old Year. We conclude with the usual compliments of the season to our subscribers, readers friends and well-wishers. We wish them one and all a HAPPY HAPPY NEW YEAR!

AFFAIRS AT BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Bombay, 26th December 1882.

THERE WAS a grand demonstration of the zemindars, talookdars, cultivators at Thana on Sunday before the last. The gathering numbered more than 3000 people drawn from the different *purganas* or Sub-Divisions of the Thana and Colaba districts. The immediate occasion for it was a proclamation issued by the Collector of Thana desiring that no forest produce, whether in a proprietory estate or in any village, should be removed from the limits of one district to those of another, without a pass from the Conservator of forests, and that any one infringing the rule would be liable to six months' imprisonment or a fine of Rs. 500. This proclamation appears to have operated very harshly on the people having to do with forest produce, inasmuch as for every head, cart or ship-load of forest produce, which consists generally of timber, bamboos, grass, peat, reeds, canes, leaves, moss, flowers, fruits, roots, honey, wax, lac, &c., they would have to get a pass from the forest department, located at Thana, and so situated at a distance of ten or twenty miles from the places where the produce is ready for delivery and despatch. This distance must cause very great inconvenience and hardship to the people on emergent occasions. When a man dies his relations must go some miles off to apply for a pass to carry a head load or cart-load with which to burn the body, and it would not be a matter for wonder that the body should often decompose before the time for cremation arrives. The meeting was very respectably attended. Mr. Bala Saheb Khankar the late Dewan of Nawanagor had taken the chair. Rai Bahadur Dajee Govind, a pensioned first class Sub-Judge, explained the object of the meeting, and supported the adoption of a memorial to the Government of India on the subject, by observing that the Forest Act had been worked of late with unusual stringency and that one result of it was that the rural population of the district had not had for some time past fuel enough for their daily use. Their grievance did not consist merely in the fact that timber growing in Government villages was not allowed to cut, but that Government had gone so far as to deprive private owners of land from dealing with its products as they liked. Traders in fact were forced to supply themselves from *depots* opened by Government, and it was on this account that the village people could not obtain their daily supplies from timber merchants. It appears that although the Forest Act of 1878 was passed three years ago, it was not until lately that rules were framed under that Act, and as it has never been the custom to discuss the merits of these rules before issuing them, the propriety or stringency of them never came to be seen by the public until the rules are in actual operation, and until people began actually to feel their harshness or inconvenience. It will thus be seen that the recent Resolution of the Government of India regarding the publicity of new measures came in not a day too soon. I think it is desirable that this Resolution should not have a retrospective effect at least in regard to these rules under the Forest Act, as some of them touch the domestic side of peoples' life.

Mr. L. R. Ashburner, the senior member of Council, ceased to be a member of the Bombay Government on Saturday last, and the vacancy has been filled up by the appointment of Mr. J. B. Peile. The Government of Sir James Fergusson have announced these changes in a *Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary*. In this valedictory notice of Mr. Ashburner's retirement, Sir James Fergusson remarks that personally H E the Governor is deeply sensible of and grateful for, the cordial and constant support and co-operation which he has received from Mr Ashburner since his arrival in India, and the benefit he has derived from Mr. Ashburner's experience. Sir James Fergusson here forgets that it is owing to Mr. Ashburner's blunder that his Government has of late came into sharp conflict with the Government of India and into unpopularity with the public. There is not the least doubt that socially Mr Ashburner has been a genial man, but as an official, as an administrator, and above all, as a statesman, he has scarcely shown capacity of a high order. As an official he has been known to be an impulsive man, a person of strong likes and dislikes. He has been a member of two Governments, the past and the present. Of Sir Richard Temple he acted as a subservient lieutenant Of Sir James Fergusson he has been the evil genius. In public questions he has invariably been on the wrong track, witness his Game Preservation Bill, the Abkari Amendment Bill and the famous para 20 of the Bombay Government Resolution of the 19th September last on local Self-Government. The fact is Mr Ashburner was an anachronism. His successor Mr. J. B. Peile is a competition-walla, a much abler and stronger man. It is hoped that by his accession to the Council wiser counsels will prevail over the Government of Sir James Fergusson and His Excellency will make a decent appearance before the public.

Mr. Peile's promotion gives a lift to Mr. Secretary Nugent, who is confirmed as our Revenue Secretary. Mr. Nugent is admittedly a clever man, a clear writer, but he combines most of the prejudices of a revenue official with far less experience of district work than others over whose heads he has passed. In the districts he would rank as a first Assistant Collector. Many Collectors, who have much better claims than Mr. Nugent, regard the post of Revenue Secretary as one of the prizes of the Civil Service, and are natually disappointed to see that Sir James Fergusson should, in confirming Mr. Nugent, have acted on the principle of out of sight out of mind; but the appointment is in the Governor's gift and discretion, and there is an end of the matter.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

THE FOLLOWING is the programme of the approaching short tour of the Lieutenant-Governor through Behar:

Leave Calcutta	Monday, Jan.,	22nd.
Arrive at Mozufferpore	Tuesday	,,	23rd.
Remain at Mozufferpore	Wednesday	,,	24th.
Go to Motiharee	Thursday	,,	25th.
Go to Bettiah	Friday	,,	26th.
Return to Mozufferpore	Saturday	,,	27th.
Remain at Mozufferpore	Sunday	,,	28th.
Go to Durbhunga	Monday	,,	29th.
Return to Mozufferpore	Tuesday	,,	30th.
Leave for Calcutta	Wednesday	,,	31st.
Reach Calcutta	Thursday, Feb.,	1st.

His Honor may arrange to stop at Burdwan on his way back to open the water-works on Friday, the 2nd of February, and return to Calcutta the same evening.

WE HAVE not yet received the judgment in the Pubna case, but have received the depositions of the District Superintendent of Police and an Inspector of Police, which we regret we cannot notice in this issue for want of space.

WE REMITTED to Lord Northbrook the subscriptions which we received in aid of the fund for a suitable building for the Northbrook Indian Society in London. His Lordship has favoured us with the following acknowledgment:

ADMIRALTY.

December 1st, 1882.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th November, including a Bill for £421-16-10, the amount of the subscriptions you have been so good as to obtain for the Northbrook Indian Society. I have sent the list of names of the subscribers to the Secretary, and I should be much obliged to you if you will communicate to them the best thanks of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,
NORTHBROOK.

TO THE HON'BLE KRISTODAS PAL, C.I.E.

WE HEAR that the second despatch of the Secretary of State on the Bengal Rent Bill has been wired to the Viceroy, and that all papers relating to the Bill will probably be published by the end of this month. The Bill is likely to be introduced into the Legislative Council in the beginning of February.

THE BATTLE of the Bengal Rent Bill wages loud and long. We hear that Mr. O'Kinealy has written a minute in reply to that of Sir Richard Garth. We also hear that Mr. Mackenzie has written a second minute on the subject. This time it is an official document, not "printed for private circulation." We hope it will be placed at the disposal of the press.

THE RESULTS of the Calcutta Schools at the last Entrance Examination have been announced. We give them below:

Hindu School	has passed	...	29	out of	71
Hare School	,,	...	40	,,	82
Metropolitan Institution	,,	...	22	,,	41
,, Branch	,,	...	17	,,	25
City School	,,	...	20	,,	37
Presidency School	,,	...	12	,,	28
General Assemb'y's Institution	,,	...	18	,,	77
Training Academy	,,	...	3	,,	19
Oriental Seminary	,,	...	11	,,	13

THE FORTHCOMING International Exhibition, which we announced last week, will comprise nine sections, viz. (1) Fine Arts, (2) Apparatus and Application of the Liberal Arts, (3) Furniture and Objects for the use of Dwellings, (4) Clothing including Fabrics, (5) Products of mining, industry, forestry &c., (6) Apparatus and Processes used in the Common Arts, (7) Food, (8) Artizan's workmanship, (9) Children's work. An Exhibition Building will be erected on the grounds lately occupied by the Bengal Secretariat Offices round the Indian Museum. Mr. Rivers Thompson has thrown into the work.

WE HEAR that the Bengal Government has sent up to the Government of India all the papers on the subject of the proposed Central Railway Station with a strong recommendation for the establishment of the Station in the heart of Calcutta. We still hold that it will be a waste of money to establish the Station in the centre of the town.

TWO NATIVE GENTLEMEN of Bengal come in for this year's allotment of the honor of the Indian Empire. They are Newab Abdul Lutief Khan Bahadur and Dr. Mohendralal Sircar. The selections made are excellent. Newab Abdul Lutief has by his long career of public usefulness and patriotic efforts to ameliorate the condition of his co-religionists established his claim to the distinction. Dr. Mahendralal Sircar as the founder of the Science Association, as one who takes an active part in the diffusion of knowledge of science among his countrymen by lectures and writings, and as a benefactor of humanity by rendering gratuitous medical assistance to poor patients coming to his house for treatment, eminently deserves the distinction which has been conferred upon him. Science is honored in Dr. Sircar. May both the recipients of the honor long enjoy it!

THE AGITATION set on foot by the *Englishman* regarding the condition of the sewers has not been made too soon. The question whether the sewers are properly flushed and whether there are adequate means for flushing them deserves a careful enquiry. We observe that there will be a special general meeting of the Corporation on Monday next for the consideration of the subject. We are of opinion that the Government should be moved to appoint a Committee of experts to enquire into and report upon the matter.

THE DEATH is announced of Dr. Charles, the veteran Missionary, at the ripe old age of 80 years. The elder generation of the educated natives of

Calcutta may recall to mind the many eloquent addresses which he delivered to them when he was the head of the General Assembly's Institution in this city. There was a memorable incident in his connection during his residence in Calcutta which we may mention. David Hare died, and no Christian Minister would attend his funeral, because the great philanthropist was somewhat free and independent in his religious opinions. It was Dr. Charles, who had the charity to give him a Christian burial.

DR. HUNTER has rendered a signal service to the poor peasantry of the Deccan by prominently drawing attention to the pressure of the land settlement in connection with the DeccanAgriculturists' Relief Bill. In a masterly speech, remarkable alike for historic lore, economic knowledge, and generous sympathy, he reviewed the condition of the Deccan ryots, and justly urged that the mitigation of the revenue pressure ought to go hand in hand with facilities to free them from debt. He thus pointed out the inconsistency of the present measure:

My Lord, on the one hand we are told that the Deccan peasantry are so hopelessly plunged in misery and debt that a special insolvent law is necessary to free them from their private creditors—the moneylenders. On the other hand, we find that the revenue officers have, during the past ten years, greatly enhanced the land assessment in these afflicted districts. The Government has sent forth one set of officers to absolve the cultivators from the loans which they have borrowed from private individuals; and almost with the same breath it launches another set of officers to collect a largely-enhanced rental from the cultivators.

Dr. Hunter's speech led to a very interesting debate. We will notice the debate when a full report of it is published.

IN AN unhappy moment the Mitralyas or refreshment rooms for native travellers on the East Indian Railway maintained by the well-known Native capitalist, Babu Nilcomul Mitter, of Allahabad, were abolished owing to a friction with some of the Railway authorities. We are glad to learn that Babu Preonath Lahuri of this town is endeavouring to revive these refreshment rooms at the principal stations on the East Indian line at his own expence. If the projector should succeed in his scheme, he would meet a crying want of the native travellers on the Railway. We are however sorry to hear that the Railway authorities are not favourable to the project. We cannot understand the reason of their opposition. Surely the native passengers, who pay the Railway, deserve consideration at their hands.

WE ARE glad to learn that Babus Obhoy Churn Goho and Tara Chand Goho propose to build Gunga Jatri sheds near Kassy Mitter's Ghat at a cost of about Rs. 20,000, which they will dedicate to the memory of their father, the late Babu Shib Chunder Goho. Since the demolition of the rest-house belonging to the late Raja Sir Radhakant Bahadur by the Port Commissioners the absence of suitable accommodation for dying patients near Kassy Mitter's Ghat has been seriously felt. The good work contemplated by Babus Obhoy Churn Goho and Tara Chand Goho will be a great boon to the Hindu public. We may mention that the Gunga Jatri sheds at the Mayo Hospital built by Babu Chuttoo Lal are a great convenience to the Hindu population in the central part of the town.

IT IS STATED that the services of Mr. Croft, Director of Public Instruction, are placed temporarily for three months at the disposal of the Government of India in connection with the work of the Education Commission and that Mr. Bellett, Principal of the Presidency College, has been appointed to act for him. We cannot understand why the claims of Babu Bhudev Mookerjea have been overlooked. In the absence of Mr.Garett he is the senior Inspector of Schools, and he had therefore the best claim to the officiating Directorship. It might be urged that he too is a member of the Education Commission, but it has not been deemed necessary to relieve him of the duties of Inspector of Schools. If he can perform the duties of Inspector in addition to his work in the Education Commission, surely he could have performed those of Director.

WE ARE informed that the Diamond Harbour Railway,the construction of which has been pushed on with praiseworthy vigour, will be opened by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in the presence of His Excellency the Viceroy in the beginning of February next. Mr. Grant Duff in his sketches of India gives a graphic account of the inconvenience which passengers by steamers bound for Calcutta are put to by being detained for favourable tide. This Railway will among other things remove this inconvenience. It will greatly facilitate communication between Calcutta and the sea. We hope it will in time be extended further down in order to attract the trade of the southern district.

WE THANK Mr. Juverilal Yajnik for a copy of his Note on local self-government in the Bombay Presidency, It is an admirable paper, well thought out and well-written. Mr. Yajnik has discussed the subject of local self-government in all its bearings. The object of this Note, he says: is (1) to endeavour to fill up, in a measure, the gap left by the Government of Bombay; (2) to view the proposals of the Government of India from a non-official stand-point; (3) to show how far the position taken up by the Bombay Government, in regard to many of the proposals of the Supreme Government, involves injustice to the people of Western India; (4) to point out in what respects some of the proposals of the local Government are unfair in principle, and are likely to be found unworkable in practice, unless materially modified to suit the condition and circumstances of each district; and (5) generally to consider the whole scheme from a practical, business-like point of view. And our author has admirably fulfilled his self-imposed task. His Note is a valuable contribution to the literature on the subject of local self-government.

LORD RIPON has given another proof of his benevolent solicitude for the advancement of natives to the higher ranks of the public service. The *Gazette of India* publishes some important papers on the subject of the training of Native Engineers in England. Lalla Gunga Ram, a young Assistant Engineer in the Punjab Public Works Department, having submitted an application for permission to go to England for the purpose of studying practical engineering, the Government of India acquiesced in the proposal and referred the matter to the Home Government for sanction. In making the reference the Government of India remarked: "We are gratified by this spontaneous expression of desire for self-improvement. One of the great drawbacks to our native engineers is a poverty of invention in design. This is more especially the case in designing buildings, in which they do not rise above the type of India Bungalows or the India barracks, which are the model for all European dwellings. They have seen nothing higher and aim at nothing higher. There can be no doubt that their professional knowledge would be enlarged, and their usefulness to the State would be increased, by a visit to England and observation of large works."

With regard to the remuneration of the Assistant Engineer and other incidental expenses, the Government of India recommended full pay in sterling for two years, that is to say, Rs. 450 a month together with free passage both ways.

Taking advantage of this case the Government of India recommended that the concession might be extended to a limited number of selected native engineers, who might voluntarily come forward from the first and second grades of Assistant Engineers, their age ranging from 25 to 28 years. The selections should be made by the Local Governments, and the names of the candidates submitted to the Government of India for approval and for transmission to the Secretary of State. The candidates would be allowed to stay out of India for two years. On arrival in England they should report themselves to the Secretary in the Public Works Department at the India Office, and should be attached for 18 months or thereabout to some Engineer or Engineers of repute, in the same way and under the same supervision as the passed students of the Royal Engineering College, the State paying the required fees. The remaining few months of their deputation might be spent in visiting under the direction of the Secretary of State important works in progress in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. The Secretary of State has accorded sanction to the proposal of the Government of India as an experimental measure. The Assistant Engineers would on arrival in England be placed under the immediate orders of the President of Cooper's Hill College, who would make the necessary arrangements for their education and training. This measure will to some extent mitigate the injustice done to Indian Engineers by the maintenance of Cooper's Hill College.

WE THANK Babu Gungadhur Chatterjee of the Calcutta Municipal Office for a copy of the verses in Bengali with a translation of the same into English which he has presented to His Excellency the Viceroy as a thank-offering of the people of India. The verses are spirited and describe within a short compass the leading features of Lord Ripon's beneficent administration. We wish the Bengali verses had been rendered into English verse. The prose translation, however, conveys a fair, though not a full, idea of the spirit of the text. The Private Secretary to the Viceroy has conveyed to the author the thanks of His Excellency for the verses.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS UNEQUALLED EFFICACY IN INFANTILE WASTING AND DABILITY OF CHILDREN.—Thomas Hunt, Esq., late Medical Officer of Health, St. Giles's and Bloomsbury, writes:—"In badly-nourished infants, Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is invaluable. The rapidity with which two or three teaspoonfuls a day will fatten a young child is astonishing. The weight gained is three times the weight of the Oil swallowed, or more; and, as children generally like the taste of Dr. de Jongh's Oil, and when it is given them, often cry for more, it appears as though there were some prospect of deliverance for the appalling multitude of children who figure in the weekly bills of mortality issued from the office of the Registrar General." Dr. R. C. Croft, Author of "Handbor for the Nursery" writes Dr de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is almost a specific in many of the Diseases peculiar to Infancy and Childhood, and I have seen marked benefit produced by its use. Patients prefer it to the Pale Oils, and are able to retain it more comfortably." Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, quarts, and with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and storekeepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 77, Strand, London.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*December* 27, 1882.

GENERAL—15th Dec—Baboo Gobind Mohun Ghose, Depy Magte and Depy Coll, Gya, to perform the functions of a Coll under Sec 4 Act VI (B C) of 1880 in that dist.

22nd Dec —Mr A W Cochran, Offg Dist and Sess Judge, Mozufferpore, furlough for ten months from 23rd inst.

The following officers, now employed on special duty, are authorised to exercise the powers of a Colr under secs 22, 23, 25, 31, and 32 of Regln XII of 1817, in the di-ts mentioned opposite their names :—

Mr M Finucane, Durbhunga; Mr H M Tobin, Shahabad; Mr R Carstairs, Hooghly; Mr D J Macpherson, Bogra; and Baboo Parbutty Churn Roy, Moorshedabad.

Moulvie Abdul Huq, tempy Sub-Depy Colr, Bogra, is transfd temply to Julpigoree.

Mr J C Veasey, Jt-Magte and Depy Colr, has been granted by the Secy of State for India an extension of furlough for eight months.

The following officers are apptd to be pro tempore substantive Sub-Depy Colrs of the fourth grade respectively from dates they joined their apptmts :—

Baboo Rash Behary Dutt, Baboo Bonomally Pramanick, Baboo Nibaran Chunder Ghattack, Baboo Gossain Das Hazra, Moulvie Mahomed Ghowsi, and Baboo Hem Chunder Mookerjee.

This cancels so much of the notifn of the 18th inst as relates to the apptmts of the above officers to be protempore substantive Sub-Depy Colrs of the fourth grade.

Mr L P Shirres, who has recently been apptd a member of the Bengal Civil Service, and who reported his arrival on the 18th inst, to be an Asst Magte and Colr in the Patna divn, and is posted to the sudder station of Patna.

In modifn of order of 2nd Oct, 1882, Mr P Nolan, Offg Magte and Colr of Shahabad, to act, in secd grade of Magtes and Colrs, from 9th Sept, 1882.

Mr W. Grindlay, Asst Magteand Colr, Patna, is transfd to the sudder station of Durbhungah.

Mr J F Browne, C. S, returned from furlough on 15th inst

Mr C B Garrett, Offg Dist and Sess Judge, Moorshedabad, leave for five days in extension of leave granted 2th ult.

POLICE—23rd Dec—Col W T Fagan, Offg Depy InsprGenl of Police, is confirmed in that apptmt, from 4th inst, vice Col W R Gordon.

Mr H M Reily, Dist Superdt of Police, on leave, is promtd to first grade of Dist Superdts of Police, from 27th inst, vice Col W T Fagan.

Maj R P Davis, Dist Superdt of Police, on leave, is promtd to secd grade of Dist Superdts of Police, from 27th inst, vice Mr H M Reily.

Mr J Patch, Dist Superdt of Police, on leave, is promtd to third grade of Dist Superdts of Police, from 27th inst, vice Maj R P Davis.

Mr W B Maxwell, Dist Superdt of Police, Kamrup, Assam, is promtd to fourth grade of Dist Superdts of Police, from 27th inst, vice Mr J Patch.

Mr H Munro, Offg Dist Superdt of Police, Mozufferpore, to be a Dist Superdt of Police, fifth grade, from 27th inst, vice Mr W B Maxwell.

Mr R F Guise, Asst Superdt of Police, Gurjat Mehals, is promtd to the first grade of Asst Superdts of Police, from 27th inst, vice Mr H Munro.

Mr E W Payne, Asst Superdt of Police, third grade, is promtd to secd grade of Asst Superdts of Police, from 6th Oct last, vice Mr J H W D Clark. Mr Payne will, however, continue to hold his present apptmt as Asst Superdt of Jails, Bhagulpore.

Mr W C Fasson, Asst Superdt of Police, Assam, is promtd temply to secd grade of Asst Superdts of Police, from 6th Oct last, vice E W Payne on deputn.

Mr J C Stack, offg Asst Superdt of Police, Midnapore, to be an Asst Superdt of Police, third grade.

Advertisements.

SWETASHWATARA UPANISHAD with the commentary of Sankaracharya and Bengalli Translation. Price Rs. 1-4. Postage As. 1-6. Mohesh Chunder Paul. 141. Barranosy Ghose's Street, Calcutta.

A Prize of Rupees Fifty will be awarded by Rajah Sourindra Mohun Tagore, Mus. Doc., C.I.E., Founder and President of the Academy, for the best dissertation, in Bengali or English, on the "Applicability of *Harmony* to Hindu Music." The paper should contain detailed illustrations of the views put forward therein. Competitors should send in their papers by the 31st March next, to the undersigned who will be happy, on reference to him in writing, to give further information on the subject.

Calcutta, Pathuriaghata Rajbati, 1st January 1883. } BAIKUNTHA NATHA BASU, Hony. Secretary.

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26th December 1882, Gas works, Calcutta. } D. COATS NIVEN, Manager.

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BOOKS.

Chambers's Etymological Dictionary of the English Language. A *new and thoroughly revised edition* 1882, Rs. 2, or dozen copies Rs. 23.

D. E Cranenburgh, Code of Civil Procedure (Act 14 of 1882) Annotated Rs. 3. The new Civil Court Manual, sixth edition Rs. 8. The new Criminal Court Manual Rs. 13. The new Code of Crimal Procedure, Rs. 5. The Indian Penal Code Rs. 4.

Mayne on Hindu Law and Usage 3rd edition Rs. 18-8 (orders are now registered.)

Seward Brice ;—Doctrine of Ultra Vires Rs. 16

Moore Indian Appeals *new* law calf Rs. 200.

15, Bosepara Lane, Calcutta. KEDARNATH BANERJEA.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF CALCUTTA.

SIR,—We, the undersigned Commissioners, request you, under Section 45 of (Bengal) Act IV. of 1876, to call a Special General Meeting of the Commissioners, for the transaction of the following business:—

To consider the complaints which have been recently made in the Newspapers about the prevailing smells and the defective conservancy of the streets in certain quarters of the Town.

J. Westland.
H. J. Reynolds.
H. E. M. James.
M. P. Gasper.
F. W. Peterson.
Thomas Jones.
Surendra Nath Das.
A. F. M. Abdur Rahman.
Gonesh Chunder Chunder.
25th December 1882. Nobin Chand Boral.

In compliance with the above requisition, a Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta, will be held at the Town Hall, on Monday, the 8th January 1883, at 3 P. M.

ROBERT TURNBULL, Secretary to the Corporation.

WANTED a Sub Overseer under the Road Cess Committee, Maldah, on Rs. 45 and 15 special allowance, (the latter may continue for a year or more according to qualification). The candidate must have a good theoretical and practical knowledge, in surveying, Levelling and other necessaries for a P. W. Sub Overseer. All applications with copies of testimonials must be submitted to the undersigned before 20th January next.

Maldah Dist Engr's Office. The 23rd December, 1882. } JOGENDRO NATH GHOSE, District Engineer.

NOTICE.

The post of Head Clerk is filled up, applicants will accept this as a reply.

Divisional Superintendent of Works, Bhaugulpur Division.

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His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,
The Honourable the Chief Justice,

ON

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KISSENGUNGE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

There will be an Agricultural Exhibition and a general fair at Kissengunge in the District of Purneah under the patronage of the Collector of the District. The exhibition will commence on the 15th of January and last for 10 days. Prizes will be given for the District produce of all kinds including plough cattle and ponies and also for ploughing.

Shop-keepers from all parts of the District of Purneah and from other Districts are invited to attend the fair. Sheds at the expense of Exhibition Committee will be provided for them and no tolls on sales will be levied.

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26	×	19	×	17	"	80
28	×	20	×	18	"	85
30	×	21	×	20	"	90
32	×	22	×	21	"	105
34	×	23	×	23	"	115
36	×	24	×	24	"	125

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28,	30,	32,	34,	36	inch.
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Extract from the Finance Chronicle and Insurance Circular.

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LOCAL.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

A General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the Hall of the Association on Friday, the 22nd December, 1882, *at* 3-30 *p. m.*

PRESENT :

Maharaja Narendra Krishna, Bahadur, president, in the chair ; Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Jotindro Mohun Tagore, Bahadur, K.C.S.I. ; Maharaja Luchmessur Sing, Bahadur, of Durbhunga ; Raja Poorna Chunder Sing ; Hon'ble Raja Siva Pershad, C.S.I, ; Hon'ble Doorga Churn Law ; Nawab Mir Mahommed Ali ; Baboos Joykissen Mookerjee, Peary Mohun Mookerjee, Kali Presonno Ghose, Hem Chunder Gossain, Nundo Lall Gossain, Nundo Lall Mullick, Shama Churn Laheri, Surendro Mohun Tagore, Saligram Sing, and Damoodar Das Burman ; Messrs. Manickjee Rustomjee and Herjeebhoy Manickjee Rustomjee, Baboo Loke Nath Mullick ; Kumar Dinendra Nath Roy ; Baboos Jogendra Chunder Ghose, Juggodish Nath Roy, Charoo Chunder Mullick, Hurry Mohun Bose, Gopal Chunder Gangooly, Boikunto Nath Bose, Boikunto Nath Sen, Benode Behary Mullick, Prosad Das Dutt, Omernath Mustuffi, Dakhina Mohun Roy Chowdry, and some others.

The Secretary read the following report of the Committee :

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE Committee beg to submit a summary of the operations since the date of their last Report:

ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN EMPRESS ON HER ESCAPE FROM ASSASSINATION.

In the beginning of the year India was shocked by the intelligence of a dastardly and horrible attempt at the life of the Queen-Empress. In order to express the satisfaction and thankfulness of Her Majesty's Indian subjects at Her Providential escape the Committee placed themselves in communication with the Chamber of Commerce and the Trades Association for a joint address of sympathy and congratulation to Her Gracious Majesty. Accordingly a joint meeting was held, which elected a representative Committee composed of members of all classes of the community to prepare the address and obtain signatures. Pending the preparation of the address a message was forwarded by His Excellency the Viceroy at the request of the meeting to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, which was as follows :

FROM THE VICEROY TO QUEEN EMPRESS,
London.

I have the honor to inform your Majesty that at a meeting of representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta Trades Association and British Indian Association, a Committee was formed to prepare an address expressive of the loyal and heart-felt congratulations of all sections of the Calcutta Community at the providential escape of your Majesty from the attempt recently made on your Majesty's life.

Subsequently the meeting of the representatives adopted an address, which was forwarded in due course.

LEGISLATION.

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON THE EMIGRATION ACT.—In their last annual report the Committee have noticed their representations in connection with the Emigration Bill. After the Bill was passed His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council was pleased to record a Resolution laying down instructions for the local Governments for the practical working of the law. These instructions are conceived in a liberal and benevolent spirit. There are three kinds of emigration permitted by the Act *viz.*, (1), the emigrant out-side the Act and working as a free labourer, (2) the emigrant, though outside the Act, still voluntarily coming under it, and (3), the labourer recruited by contractors and garden-sirdars. The Resolution points out that labourers travelling to a labour district of their own accord may agree to an ordinary contract and the only alteration in the law which will apply to them is the extension of the limitation of contract. Similarly emigrants proceeding to a labour district independently of the Act and with or without assistance from an employer may accept a labour contract under Sections 111 and 112 of the Act, which can be enforced under Sections 170 to 175. This alteration, the Resolution says, is an important one, and its effect should be closely observed and the extent to which the planters avail themselves of sections 111 and 112, particularly in the case of newly imported coolies should be prominently noticed in the annual report on emigration. Under the third head of emigration, the Resolution lays particular stress upon the clauses requiring the registering officer to explain to the labourer the nature of his contract and leaves the detailed working to the local Governments. It further enjoins activity on the part of the executive officers in the supervision of the accommodation for the coolies, in enforcing the safeguard against ill-usage or neglect on the journey, and in bringing to notice any abuses which may be attempted, or any defects which may be perceived, whether in the arrangement under the law, or in the conduct of the assisted emigrants outside the law, which may now be freely resorted to. It also enjoins the vigilant working of sirdari recruitment. Attention is directed to the effect of the change which permits any number of coolies to be recruited by garden sirdars, and conveyed to the labour districts without passing through the depot of a contractor. These instructions and injunctions show that His Excellency in Council is fully alive to the magnitude of the changes made in the law regards recruiting by giving authority to the garden-sardar to engage coolies without limit. Regarding local agents His Excellency in Council has laid down the following precautions: Special licenses cannot be granted to local agents without the sanction of the local Government, and in the opinion of the Government of India such sanction, should, for a time at least be withheld until it is seen what kind of emigration will be most frequent under the new law. When special licenses are eventually granted there should be a distinct understanding with the local agent that he will elect to appear with the labourers before the registering officer and require them to execute contracts. It is not expedient that the operations of contractors in the recruiting districts should be at once freed from all control ; and it is not intended that the system of local agency, which may be paid agency, should be utilized to introduce a new class of contractors who would work in the recruiting districts outside the law. These precautions amount to suspending for the present the law regarding the licensing of local agents. The Resolution indicates solicitude of Government for the welfare of the labourers on other points. Regarding arrest without warrant, the Resolution says that the exercise of this power requires to be very carefully watched and Inspectors and district police officers should, therefore, pay particular attention to the working of sections 172 and 173 and that the annual reports should contain information as to the total number of arrests made under this part of the law and as to the manner in which it has operated. It is directed that all cases of arrest should be reported, they were never so reported before. These instructions, shew that His Excellency is fully impressed with the magnitude of the responsibilities which the law has imposed upon the Government and thus practically vindicate the objections, which this Association had considered it their duty to urge against this measure.

LETTER OF THE ABORIGINIES PROTECTION SOCIETY.—Not long after the passing of the Emigration Act the Secretary received a communication from Mr. Chesson, Secretary to the Aboriginies Protection Society, intimating that that Society has directed its attention to this Bill, that a Sub-Committee had been appointed, that it will address the Secretary of State on the subject and also bring it before Parliament. Sir George Campbell raised the question in the House of Commons, and the Secretary of State remarked that the working of the Act will be carefully watched.

COURT FEES BILL.—The Committee submitted a representation to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council on the subject of this Bill. The main object of the Bill, the Committee observed, was the substitution of stamped papers for adhesive labels in the collection of court fees of higher value with a view to prevent frauds and forgeries which the existing system was calculated to foster. But the present opportunity was also taken to increase the scale of fees payable for suits, the amount or value of which might exceed Rs. 5,000. The object of this increase was stated to be to reduce materially the denominations of stamps required for the collection of fees. So far as the primary object of the Bill was concerned, the Committee observed, the existing Act gave the Governor-General in Council the same power, that the Bill proposed to confer. This being so the contemplated change in the form of the stamp, impressed or adhesive, could have been carried out by an executive order of Government without recourse to fresh legislation. But the new Bill has increased the scale of fees for suits above Rs 5,000. Though revenue is said not to be the object of this increase there will still, be considerable augmentation in the scale of fees. The reasons for the change are said to be that the sliding scale comprises no less than one hundred and thirty-five denominations of fees above Rs. 275, which is the fee chargeable on a suit for an amount or value of Rs. 5,000. To meet the requirements of this scale very many new denominations of stamped papers would have to be provided. Great additional expense would have to be incurred to make the proposed change, while the new stamp papers would, comparatively speaking, be seldom used, the number of suits for large amounts forming so small a portion of the entire litigation of the country. As regards the enhancement of fees involved by this change in the law, it will be in suits for Rs. 7,000 and Rs. 10,000. In the former class of suits there will be an increase of twenty-five rupees and in the latter an increase of fifty rupees. In the case of suits for sums exceeding Rs. 10,000 the increase will be less in proportion. The proposed increase, it is calculated, affects only one per cent. of the entire litigation of the country. It was added that Mr. Cockerell calculated the annual cost of substituting stamped papers for all values of ten rupees and upwards, and continuing the use of adhesive labels would amount to about £8,000, or an increase of rather more than £5,000 over the present cost. For this trifling increase of cost, the Committee submitted, it could not be just to enhance the cost of justice to those whose misfortune it might be to litigate claims of higher value than Rs 5,000. It was true that suits above Rs. 8,000 formed a small fraction of the entire litigation of the country, but the litigants for higher amounts contributed the largest sums by way of tax on justice. On the occasion of the introduction of the Stamp Bill of 1867 the Hon'ble mover remarked that the principle on which rates should be paid was not percentage of the value of suits but the number of courts which a suit might bring into operation. On that principle suitors with claims above Rs. 5,000 pay much more than they ought to do, but the Committee did not advocate for them any relief from the present burden. They however deprecated any increase of that burden on the ground that the maintenance of the present sliding scale, as far as these suitors were concerned, would in the substitution of stamped papers for adhesive labels lead to a multiplication of denominations and necessarily to increased cost of manufacture. The Committee urged that the increase of revenue from the proposed increase in the scale of fees will not be quite a lakh of rupees in Bengal, but the hardship to individual suitors for claims above Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 would be very great, and it would not be just, they added, to recoup the outlay for ramification of stamps by taxing a particular class of suitors. They further pointed out that the judicial receipts much exceeded the expenditure under the head of law and justice in Bengal and observed that when there was such a surplus from judicial receipts it could not be just to further increase the tax on justice on any class of suitors. The Committee also submitted some observations on the detailed provisions of the Bill.

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY BILL.—In commenting on this Bill the Committee drew attention to the short time allowed to the public for the consideration of its intricate provisions after it was last amended by the Select Committee. As a codification measure the Committee submitted that codification was desirable or advantageous when it sought to crystallize existing laws or to embody approved judicial decisions, but that it was to be deprecated if it sought to introduce violent changes or innovations. Unfortunately the Bill under notice went much beyond the recognized principle of codification. The Committee were not without apprehension that the Bill far from introducing certainty and confidence might give rise to new elements of uncertainty, doubt and mistrust and thus place the ignorant, the simple and the confiding at the mercy of cunning, intriguing and dishonest persons.

Proceeding to the detailed provisions of the Bill the Committee took exception to the section which empowers certain local Governments to extend the Act to the whole or any part of their territories and also to exempt the members of any sect, race or clan from the operation of certain sections of the Act. Such exceptions and exemptions they observed were for the Legislature and not for the Executive Governments to decide. The second chapter of the Bill the Committee gratefully acknowledged had removed a grave objection to it by providing that nothing in it shall be deemed to affect any rule of Hindu, Mahomedan or Buddhist law. But while the Hindus, Mahomedans and Buddhists were thus excluded from the scope of the second chapter of the Bill, it did not appear why the Jains and Sikhs not domiciled in the Panjab were still included. Moreover, the terms, the Committee submitted, on which the extension was made were not comprehensive enough. The saving clause did not specifically exclude Hindus, Mahomedans and Buddhists from the operation of chapter 2. It simply provided that nothing in that chapter will affect any rule of Hindu, Mahomedan or Buddhist law. This provision, as far as they understand it, the Committee observed, would subject Hindus, Mahomedans and Buddhist to the technical rules of procedure laid down

in that chapter in reference to contracts, but would have the effect of saving them from the operation of those sections which relate to transfers for benefit of unborn persons and rule against perpetuity in those cases only in which the Indian law conflicts with them. The Committee suggested that the exemption should be made complete. After suggesting some verbal alterations in the wording of section 2, clause 6, the Committee referred to the illustrations in Chapter II which they submitted should be recast to suit the habits and customs of those whom that chapter concerns. They further suggested that a person legally disqualified to be a transferee should be defined and particularised. Referring to the section providing for transfer by lease the Committee observed that under the existing law the lessee did not acquire any right that had not been expressly conveyed to him by the lease. Under the proposed law the lessee is to be assumed to have transferred all the interest which he is then capable of passing unless he has taken the precaution of specifying in the lease the rights which he does not intend to transfer to the lessee. The Committee expressed their opinion that the operation should be confined to sales and gifts. The definition of the words "attached to the earth" would be in conflict with the Indian ideas of transfer. That provision ignored the justice and equity of the rule laid down by the High Court that without express stipulation to that effect a lease does not give lessee a right to the minerals imbedded in the soil, and assigns undue favor to the lessee or temporary occupier to the disadvantage and at the sacrifice of the legitimate rights of the lessor, the permanent owner. Referring to the right of pre-emption recognised under the existing law the Committee took leave to suggest that the transferly right of a re-transfer should be saved from the operation of the section providing for the transfer by sale of land and buildings. Referring to accumulations of profits the Committee suggested that the time during which profits might accumulate should be extended to at least ten years. As regards small incomes such a rule was particularly necessary. If it was intended to make a departure from the existing rule that in the case of eviction of ryots from their holdings and of sale of holdings in execution of decrees the crops without express mention in the sale proclamation, go with the land, provision should be made for payment to the rightful claimant of the rent or compensation for the use of the land before the crop was gathered. The provision for the compulsory registration of all sales, mortgages and exchanges of land of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards, all gifts of any value whatever, and all leases for a term of one year or more were too far in advance of the condition of the country. Preference might be rightfully given to registered documents, but unregistered documents should not be peremptorily declared invalid. The Committee deprecated the rule regarding contracts and suggested its omission as it was opposed to a Full Bench decision of the High Court which held, that where a contract creates an interest in the land, it requires registration and a suit for its specific performance will lie. They also suggested that as important legal consequences depend upon the passing of the ownership in the property transferred, the exact time when the ownership passes to the transferee ought to be accurately defined. Referring to the provision for the sellers and buyers of properties to make disclosures of any material defect in the property and of any fact as to the nature and extent of the seller's interest in the property, the Committee observed that however commendable the object of the above provision might be it was doubtful whether it would remedy the defect in the doctrine which requires the buyer to bear the consequences of his act. It was not expedient to complicate the civil law with questions which had an alliance with the criminal law. The safest course they said would be to stop short at the provision which binds the seller to answer honestly all relevant questions. It was further suggested that transferees should pay all future instalments of charges incurred under the operation of the Land Improvement Act or of a local Drainage Act in consideration of the benefits to be derived by him from the improvement of property transferred to him. With regard to the provision for the payment of interest to the vendor for the arrear of purchase money and non-payment of the same in the absence of a stipulation, the Committee suggested that words to that effect ought to be inserted in the Bill. It was not clear why should the buyer be bound to disclose to the seller any advantages relating to the property of which the seller was ignorant. There should be some more explicit declaration of the penalty to be incurred by the buyer for improperly declining to accept delivery. The exception in the provision relating to mortgages ought to be as much applicable to several mortgagees having acquired the share of a mortgager as to all mortgagers having acquired such a share. Referring to the case where a co-mortgager, or redeems against a co-mortgager, the Committee observed the rights of such a co-mortgager had not been adequately provided for. It was desirable that latitude of action should be secured by law to individual co-mortgagers. They further suggested the application of the doctrine of marshalling to the case of a *bona fide* purchaser for value without notice of one or two properties previously mortgaged in the same way as it applied to the case of a mortgagee without notice of such property. After referring to the provisions regarding deposits of decreed money in court and the recovery of mortgaged loan by a decree for sale of the mortgaged property instead of by decree for foreclosure the Committee proceeded to discuss the chapter on "Leases," and observed that in the several provisions regarding leases of buildings, garden lands and agricultural leases something ought to be said to explain to what sort of cases "the share of crops" and "agricultural purposes" referred to in the chapter will apply and that in the event of the provisions being applicable to agricultural purposes. Regarding however the transfer of lease, the obligation of the lessee to protect the property by bounds, sub-letting, transfer of leased property, termination of a lease, absolute registration of transfer of all properties by gifts, recovering the value by purchasers of actionable claim, the Committee urged strong objections to the bestowal of absolute power to transfer a lease, without express authority from the lessor, to guard against injurious and malicious transfers. Sufficient provision, they recommended, should be made to compel the lessee to take good care that the boundaries of the leased property be not encroached upon by a neighbour. Where subletting was permitted provision should be made for the registration of subleases in the sherista of the superior landlord. When a leased property has been transferred the notice of such transfer ought to exempt the lessor from all liabilities with reference to the lease. In cases of transfer of property of small value by gift the Committee saw no reason why a purchaser for fair value of an actionable claim should not be allowed to recover all that could be recoverable from the party liable instead of having his remedy limited to recovering merely the interest thereon. So far as speculative purchasers and dealers in litigation were concerned the restriction was a just one, but to make it general would involve hardship both to the purchaser of an actionable claim and the vendor of the same. The Committee concluded by remarking that many of the provisions in this Bill were new and would not be intelligible to the bulk of the native population and will act harshly and cause much vexation, trouble and loss.

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AMENDMENT BILL.—With reference to this Bill the Committee, while acknowledging several material improvements introduced by the Select Committee, submitted some remarks and suggestions for the improvement of the Bill. With regard to the punishment of whipping the Committee observed that it was a barbarous punishment both degrading and demoralizing in its effect and ought not to find a place in the statute-book of the empire. It has failed to realize the good anticipated from it. The plea on which this punishment was maintained was the defective condition of the jails but that plea no longer holds good as the jails have been greatly improved and enlarged. The Committee then commented on the system of summary trials. The experience of the last ten years, they observed, has strengthened the objections which they had urged regarding the summary system. It has proved a prolific source of hardship, injustice and oppression and consequent dissatisfaction among the people, while it has drawn severe condemnation from the Hon'ble and learned Judges of the High Court. Regarding the provisions relating to trial by jury the Committee pointed out their defects. As the extension of the system of jury trial was dependant upon the discretion of local Governments it was to be presumed that the system would be extended to those districts only which would be considered ripe for it, and where the privilege might be conceded it would be meet that the verdict of the jury, if it should be unanimous or concurred in by a majority, should prevail. Referring to the provisions authorising the Court to take memorandum of evidence in English as the examination proceeds, the Committee submitted that the record of evidence in any language other than that in which it might be given would not be satisfactory, unless there be an elaborate system of interpretation. In many cases valuable property or the liberty of the subject may be jeopardised by an imperfect rendering of the idium or peculiar turns of expression used in the vernacular. The High Court held that charges of perjury ought to be based strictly upon the exact words which are used by the person who is charged. And no evidence which does not profess to give those exact words can alone be a safe foundation for a conviction. The Committee therefore suggested that the evidence of witnesses should be recorded in the language in which it is delivered, leaving it of course to the Court to make a memo in English for its own guidance. Turning next to the sections providing for appeal against acquittals and for the Appellate Courts to enhance sentences on appeal, the Committee took leave to remark that a law giving the executive the power to appeal against acquittals did not obtain in the criminal code of any civilized country on the face of the globe. When a person has been once fairly tried and acquitted by a competent court it is very hard that he should be liable to be tried again on the same charge. The court of first instance has the best opportunity of testing the guilt or innocence of a person by examining the witnesses, watching their demeanor and weighing all surrounding circumstances, and if that Court should after making a fair trial acquit an offender, surely it would not be consistent with sound principles of jurisprudence to concede to Government the right of appeal against such an acquittal. Furthermore, the privilege of an appeal by the Crown from an acquittal implies that the Government has no confidence in its own Magistrates and Sessions Judges. And yet the Government has decided to retain the system of summary trials which implies the highest confidence in the magistracy. The section withdrawing the power of appellate courts to enhance sentences on appeal gives to the High Court the power to enhance a sentence in any case which might be called up by order of that Court or which may be sent up to that Court by a Sessions Judge or District Magistrate. The Committee urged that this power should likewise be withdrawn. Referring to the section providing that a European British subject who may be unlawfully detained in custody, may by an application to the High Court, be brought up before such Court, the Committee suggested that the provision might be made equally applicable to the case of a native Indian subject of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. Having regard to the circumstance that no proceedings can be taken in cases where the Magistrate is the offending officer without the sanction of Government, which sanction might be withheld at the pleasure of the executive on the plea that the act complained against was done *bona fide* in the discharge of public duties, the Committee invited that the Indian and European subjects might be placed on an equal footing for the protection of liberty, and that the *Habeas Corpus* section may be made general in its application. The Committee lastly solicited attention to the old question of the extension of the jurisdiction of Mofussil Criminal Courts to European British subjects. Taking a review of the changes and improvements which have taken place in the country since the question was first raised in Parliament in the year 1833, the Committee submitted that whatever the reasons which might have been urged in times past against the measure in question they have no validity at the present time. Now Her Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress has assumed the direct rule of the British Indian Empire,—all the Courts of the country are Queen's Courts. The highest tribunals of the Queen and the Company have now been amalgamated into the High Court presided over by Barrister and Civilian Judges, and no distinction is made between the different classes of Judges in the constitution of the Bench for the Calcutta Criminal Sessions, at which both Europeans and Natives are tried. In the Police Court of Calcutta Magistrates both European and Native try Europeans and Natives alike. The same practice prevails in all the other Presidency towns. The substantive criminal law has been codified and the Indian Penal Code applies to both Europeans and Natives. The Procedure Code is the same, though the agency for the trial of European British subjects in the Mofussil and in the Presidency towns is different. The efficiency of Mofussil Courts has of late considerably improved, while there is not a district in which trained lawyers are not to be found. It would be presumptuous on their part, the Committee submitted, to remind His Excellency that equality in the eye of the law was the dearest privilege, which the British Government offers to its subjects, and that the violation of this principle has always been denounced by the highest British jurisconsults and statesmen. The invidious distinction now made was not only a sad commentary on that equality and impartiality of the British law which constitute its highest boast, but it was also a serious reflection on the intelligence, loyalty, and character of the judiciary in the Mofussil. Apart from the stigma this distinction casts upon the people, it is a source of great inconvenience, expense and hardship to them. No native can seek redress for a criminal offence committed by a British subject on account of the expense, inconvenience and hardship which he is obliged to undergo in order to come down to Calcutta with his witnesses for the trial of the offender. For these and other reasons the Committee prayed that the invidious distinction might be abolished. Some of the suggestions of the Committee have been accepted and the Bill has *since been passed into law. His Excel-*

lency the Viceroy has been pleased to say that he will consider next session the question of the extension of the jurisdiction of the Mofussil Criminal Courts to European British subjects.

EMBANKMENT BILL.—On the publication of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee the Committee of this Association took occasion to comment on the amendments introduced by the Hon'ble Mover of the Bill and the Select Committee, and suggested such alterations as were called for by experience, due regard to the interests of the parties concerned, and considerations of justice. In the first place the Committee took exception to the definition of public embankments, reading which with the subsequent provision, the Committee observed, the position of owners of land bordering on private embankment taken charge of by Government will be worse than it is under the existing law. Public embankment was defined to be an embankment maintained by Government, and this definition included both Government embankments and embankments taken charge of by Government officers. To guard against the right of private owners being prejudiced they suggested that the words "at the cost of Government" be added at the end of the definition of public embankment. Turning to the provision under which all lands belonging to a public embankment whether maintained by Government at its own expense or taken charge of by Government officers shall vest in Government, and when once the lands are vested the Government will as a matter of course have right to such lands, and the right which it will confer on Government to take earth from such lands, does not recognise the right of the private landholder to the produce of those lands, which he had all along enjoyed, the Committee referred to the correspondence of September 1881 in which they had discussed the whole question and shewed that the Government had decided that the issue of instructions to the Deputy Collectors to be guided by actual use and possession appears to afford a satisfactory solution of the difficulty regarding the title to side-ditches from which the earth is taken. This decision, the Committee observed, referred to public embankments maintained by Government at its own expense. The right of the private landholders to side lands of private embankments taken charge of by Government officers cannot be questioned. The Committee therefore recommended that the provisions under comment might be so amended as to provide for the supply of earth without trenching upon the private rights of the landholder. Passing over the minor provisions regarding the power given to Government to make a sluice in a public embankment, to take charge of a private embankment or remove any private embankment, the Committee proceeded to the consideration of the section providing for the entertainment of claims for lands or any other rights affected by the action of the embankment authorities and remarked that the time so allowed for the entertainment of such claims should be extended to three instead of two years. Referring to the discontinuance of any embankment, water-course or tow-path and their exclusion from the schedule D. referred to the Committee observed that the introduction of the word "water-course" would complicate matters by raising the question as to which water-course should be included and which not. Regarding the proviso in the section providing for the recovery of an estimated amount from zemindars on account of repairs and maintenance of embankments, and water-course and works connected therewith, that no order giving such power shall be passed by the Lieutenant-Governor until three months after the amount of such estimate shall have been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, the Committee suggested that similarly a time ought to be fixed within which a general notice calling upon all persons in the district to prefer their objections to the Collector should be issued. The Committee deprecated the provision for the recovery of the costs of any embankment from any estate by making it a first charge upon that estate not to be voided by any sale observing that the only sale which gives a Parliamentary title to the purchaser is the sale for arrears of revenue and the provision in question will take the security of such sales and suggested that if this section be at all retained a proviso should be added to the section to the effect "provided the amount of such charge be advertized in the proclamation of sale." The wording of the section giving power to a zemindar or tenure-holder to recover any instalment of the costs of any embankment due to them not being clear the Committee recommended the restoration of the wording of Section 51 of Act VI of 1873. Referring to the provision for the infliction of a fine or imprisonment upon any person erecting unauthorized embankments or diverting or obstructing a water-course, the Committee suggested that no penalty should be imposed under this section unless the offence be an act done after service of notice. As regards sections providing for the infliction of fines and imprisonment for acting in contravention of this law the Committee remarked that as proceedings under these provisions will not come under the Criminal Procedure Code, it was desirable that an appeal should be allowed from sentences under these sections. The Bill has been passed into law after slight alterations.

THE RENT BILL.—The Committee, having received information that the Government of India have settled the Bengal Rent Bill, and forwarded it to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India for sanction applied through the Secretary to the Agricultural and Revenue Department for a copy of the same stating that if the Bill as approved by His Excellency in Council involved points which have not been considered by this Association, they would take an opportunity to submit remarks for the consideration of His Excellency in Council and for transmission to the Secretary of State. In reply the Committee were informed by the Agricultural Secretary that no time will be lost in sending to this Association a copy of the Bengal Rent Bill as soon as its publication can be permitted, but he was not then authorized to supply this Association with a copy, as many of the questions involved in it were then under consideration. The Committee hope that when the Bill is published, all papers relating to it will be likewise published.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

On the publication of the Resolution of the Government of India on the subject of local self-government and of a circular of the Government of Bengal on the same subject dated 4th November 1881, the Committee took occasion to offer some remarks and suggestions. In the first place they expressed their gratitude to the Government of India for proposing to extend to the people of this country the privilege of local self-government. The main features of the scheme, are (I) the transfer to local control of provincial expenditure under the heads of medical charity, education, and public works; II, the constitution of Municipal Committees on a broad basis; III, the concentration of all local administration other than that embraced by municipalities, in the hands of one Committee for each district, having auxiliary Sub-Divisional Sub-Committees for each teshil or sub-division as the case may be. Under the first head relating to local funds the Committee observed that the most important concession which the Government of India proposed was the remission of Police contribution from municipal funds, which now made the heaviest drain upon those funds, for after paying police and establishment charges very little was left to minor municipalities to provide for their legitimate work, that is to say conservancy, maintenance of roads, and sanitary improvement. Whilst the Police contribution was remitted, it was proposed that the municipalities must spend an equal amount upon education, medical charity, and if possible, upon public works of local interest. With reference to the proposed distribution of the police contribution, remitted, the Committee took leave to observe, that if it was insisted upon, the position of the municipalities, particularly those of the second class, would not be materially improved. Many of them after providing for police and establishment charges had scarcely Rs. 250 a month to meet their primary requirements. What therefore was needed was relief to the municipal fund for the fulfilment of the legitimate obligations of the municipalities. The Committee apprehended that the condition that the amount now spent on police must be expended on education, medical charity, and local improvement would not afford the desired relief. They, therefore, ventured to express a hope that in the arrangements that may be made in the administration of municipal funds, sufficient latitude ought to be allowed to Municipal Committees for the exercise of discretion in the selection of particular works for immediate attention, and due relief afforded to existing funds for the fulfilment of the legitimate requirements of municipalities. As regards the District Board the Lieutenant-Governor proposed to make over to it certain receipts and to impose upon it also certain obligations. So far as particular items were concerned, the receipts and expenditure of which were evenly balanced, there would, the Committee observed, be no practical difficulty, but there ought to be a distinct understanding as to what works of district improvement should be considered local, and what works should be considered provincial. It was easy to conceive, what indeed had been often borne out by experience, that unless due precautions were taken, the wholesome but abstract distinctions between general and local finances were apt to be lost sight of, when they were applied to the practical administration of funds; whereas the object of the distinction or decentralization was to effect an increased efficiency in the administration through an organisation calculated to take a more direct interest in local affairs than was possible under a centralized bureau. Experience had shewn that the distinction in question might tend to a growing divergence of interest and consequently to an aggregate increase in the burdens upon the people. It was, therefore, highly necessary that the tendency to absorb the funds of the subordinate agency by the superior agency, and thus to lead to an increase of taxation upon the people should be checked. This outcome of decentralization should be guarded against. Regarding the constitution of Municipal bodies the Committee, after giving a brief history of Municipal institutions in this country from their first inception, the system of Municipal taxation in force and the incidence of Municipal taxation, proceeded to observe that the Municipal system as at present worked had not proved popular in the greater part of the Moffussil. Among other causes there was the poverty of the people, who were ill able to bear the burdens which Municipal Government administered upon the model of the richest nation on the face of the globe, imposed upon them without sufficient regard to their limited means. There would not have been much room for dissatisfaction and discontent if the Municipal Acts had been confined to large towns in the Moffussil where the people were comparatively advanced in intelligence and material improvement. But the Municipal unions were composed of places at various stages of progress and prosperity, and while the benefits have been confined to those parts which were in a forward state, the obligation to pay has been extended to all alike. It would not be practicable to retrace the step as regards the backward parts of the country, though the Committee were of opinion that the abolition of the Municipal system would be a positive relief to the people of the poorer localities. But the Committee urged that whether the Municipalities were to be maintained in large towns or in small places which could not claim even the appellation of township, they ought to be constituted on a broad basis. The Committee suggested that three-fourths of the members of a Municipality should be elected by the rate-payers, paying a certain amount of rate per annum and the remaining fourth nominated by Government, their tenure of office should not be less than five years; that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary should be elected by the Municipal Commissioners; that the discretion of the Municipal Commissioners should not be fettered in the discharge of their duties but that the Government should be armed with the power in case of gross neglect or default, to require the Municipal Commissioners to carry out certain absolutely necessary works of conservancy and sanitation. To give effect to these suggestions it will be necessary to amend the Municipal Act.

Regarding the formation of District Boards, the scheme proposed by the Government of India was as follows—the establishment of a Central Board at the head-quarters of a district with subordinate Sub-Committees in sub-divisions making the Magistrate-Collector president of the former, and the sub-divisional officer the president of the latter; also the local bodies in each case to comprise persons not in the Government service and elected or nominated at least from one-half to two-thirds, the possible amalgamation of several Committees where they exist and the formation of Committees where they do not exist. The Committee suggested that as they had recommended in the case of the Municipal Board three-fourths of the members of the District Board should be elected and one-fourth nominated. The qualifications of the electors should of course be based upon the payment of a certain amount of cesses per annum. The Sub-Divisional Committee, in their opinion, should not be a Sub-Committee of the Central Board, but should be duly elected and nominated as a distinct body and two members of each Sub-Divisional Committee should be returnable to the District Board. The Committee strongly deprecated the proposal of making the executive head of a district the head of the District Board. If the District Board be handicapped by the District Magistrate as its permanent chairman there would be little room for independent action by the Board. Knowing as the Committee did the state of feeling in the Mofussil and the influence which the Magistrate Collector naturally wielded in it, they were convinced that the Board would dwindle into a sham if the executive head of the district should be made the head of the District Board. The Committee, therefore, recommended that either they should elect their own Chairman or that the Government should nominate to the chair an officer who is not charged with executive work in the district, in the latter case the Board should have the liberty to elect their own Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The Committee further recommended that in order to secure good attendance at the meetings of the Board and Sub-Committees travelling allowance should be given

o members not residing within the town where the office of the Board might be situate. As to the funds which should be placed at the disposal of the Board and the powers with which they should be invested, the Committee added, that the licensing of liquor shops and the extension of compulsory vaccination should be vested in the District Board and Municipal Committee. The Committee did not mean that the excise revenue which was considered a source of provincial income should be made over to them. In conclusion the Committee submitted that when the details as to the funds to be made over to District Boards, the powers to be vested in them as well as in Municipal Committees, and the objects to which the funds will be applicable will be settled, they hope that the same will be so embodied in a law as not to admit of future misunderstanding and dispute. The Committee also hope that the Local Boards will be put in sufficient funds for the fulfilment of their obligations.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

Early last year the Committee received a communication from the Judicial Department of the Government of Bengal forwarding a copy of a letter from the Home Department of the Government of India and requesting an expression of opinion of the Association on the question of abolishing imprisonment for debt. The Committee in reply remarked that the letter of the Government of India raised two questions, (1) the arrest of *purdanushin* women in execution of decrees of Civil Courts, and (2) abolition of imprisonment for debt. With regard to the first question the Committee referring to their previous communication on the subject observed that they had therein shewn how far the present law was inadequate to protect *purdanushin* women from incarceration in jail in execution of Civil Court decrees and what changes in it were necessary to give them the desired protection. They refrained therefore from repeating what they had urged in their former letter. On the question of imprisonment for debt, the Committee observed that whatever the advanced opinion in Europe, they were convinced that this country was not yet ripe for it. The interests of both the debtor and creditor required that due facilities should be given to the recovery of debt. In the absence of good security for the money lent, the creditor would be naturally unwilling to advance money and the person who might be in need of money would seriously suffer. One of the recognized facilities for the realization of debt in this country was body warrant and the fear of being put into jail had a very wholesome effect upon many a debtor in paying off his honest debts. There were many debtors who having property contrive to elude the grasp of the law by *benami* arrangements, and the only process which has any effect upon such men, though not upon all of them, was imprisonment, and if this salutary check upon dishonest repudiation of debt be withdrawn, the interests of society in this country, constituted as it was, would be seriously jeopardised. Indians of all classes, unless hopelessly depraved, have an instinctive dread of the Jail, and added to this there is the strong family feeling which is rudely shaken the moment a member of a family is thrown into jail. For honest but unfortunate debtors there are the salutary provisions of the Procedure Code which afford them every facility for seeking relief in the insolvency court. In many cases the money is paid as soon as the arrest is made, which would have been unrecoverable if the process were not allowed. The process is not had recourse to until every other resource is exhausted, and a creditor if he can recover his money by attachment of goods or chattels or other property of the debtor does not as a rule take the extreme step of proceeding against the person of the debtor. About five years ago considerable alterations had been made in the Civil Proceedure Code for the benefit of debtors and a further change was contemplated by exempting salaries not exceeding Rs. 15 per mensem from attachment altogether, and the Committee took leave to suggest that the effect of the changes alluded to should be carefully watched before such a violent change as the abolition of imprisonment for debt was introduced in this country.

THE POLICE CHARGES OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CALCUTTA, THE SUBURBS, AND HOWRAH

Referring to the Government Resolution dated the 14th July last, regarding the amalgamation of the Municipal and Cantonment Police, the Committee took leave to draw the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the exclusion of Calcutta, the suburbs, and Howrah from the benefit of the measure. In the Resolution of the Government of India of 11th October 1881, on the subject of the extension of local self-government, considerable stress was laid upon the incongruity of charging municipalities with the maintenance of the Police, while they had no voice in its management. From what was further said in the circular of the Government of India it would be seen that when the Government of India propounded the general principles of relieving Municipal towns of Police charges, there was nothing said to imply the exclusion of Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah from the general benefit of the proposed measure. On the contrary Calcutta was specially named for inclusion. But in the Resolution of the Government of Bengal dated 20th February of this year on the subject of Municipal Police charges, Calcutta, the Suburbs, and Howrah were excluded from it. The reasons assigned for this exclusion, are the limited amount of funds at the disposal of the local Government, the less pressing needs of these municipalities, and their large resources. The Committee submitted that the condition of the three Municipalities of Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah was different from that of the Municipalities in the interior, but they were not prepared to admit that their needs were less pressing. Calcutta as the metropolis of the empire was exceptionally situated and its requirements were therefore exceptional. Although the Calcutta Municipality had done a great deal for the sanitary improvement of the town still much more remained to be done. There were also urgent wants in the Suburbs and Howrah, such as drainage, water-supply, construction of roads and reclamation of bustees, which could not be met for want of funds. The cost of works in these Municipalities was also much greater than in the interior. It was true that compared with the Mofussil Municipalities the resources of the three Municipalities, named were greater, but their requirements also were much greater. The position of Calcutta as regards Police charges was peculiar. The grand principle upon which the Government of India has proceeded in relieving Municipal towns of Police charges was that while they were called upon to pay for the Police they were not allowed to have any voice in its management. This anomalous state of things continues equally in Calcutta, the Suburbs and Howrah, and if all other Municipalities have been relieved on that ground, there is no good or valid reason why these Municipalities should be excluded from the benefit of the general measure. The only apparent reason why the three Municipalities are excluded from the general measure is that the amount of their respective Police charges being heavy the provincial fund is not in a position to bear them. But the financial question is one which ought to be settled between the Government of Bengal and the Government of India. The general public are interested in the proper enforcement of the general principle laid down by the Government of India, and as not only no exception was made, but Calcutta was specially mentioned, when the general principle was laid down, it cannot be fair or reasonable to make an exception now. The Committee further ventured to submit that if want of funds be the real difficulty in giving effect to the Resolution of the Government of India as regards Calcutta, the Suburbs, and Howrah, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to ask the Supreme Government to put him in funds for the purpose. They accordingly solicited that His Honor will be pleased to move the Government of India to place at his disposal sufficient means for giving effect to its Resolution on the subject, as regards Calcutta, the Suburbs, and Howrah.

COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURE.

The Opium Monopoly.—The Committee, having been informed that a motion would be made in Parliament of which due notice had been given for the suppression of the opium monopoly of India, addressed a letter to the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce with a request to forward the annexed telegram at the cost of the Association to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India by way of expression of native opinion on the subject. The telegram is given below :—

"From President British Indian Association. To Secretary of State for India.

The Committee of the British Indian Association on behalf of their countrymen beg to express their strong disapprobation of the motion of which notice has been given in Parliament for the suppression of the opium trade. They look upon it as calculated to entail disastrous consequence on the Finances of India, without in any way benefiting the Chinese.

The Government of India intimated that the telegram had been duly transmitted to the Secretary of State.

Salt Manufacture in Bengal.—Looking to the encouragement which the Government of India proposed to offer to indegenous industry the Committee submitted to the Government of Bengal certain suggestions for the removal of the impediments which were in the way of salt manufacture in Bengal. They said they felt themselves encouraged in approaching the Government on the subject by the liberal spirit in which the Government of India was fostering indegenous industry and removing clogs upon the free course of commerce. They remarked that an invidious distinction existed between Orissa and Midnapore and the rest of Bengal. With regard to Orissa and Midnapore the rule was that if the outturn of salt yielded a revenue not less than twenty times the cost of the preventive and excise establishments the State shall bear the expense of such establishments, and they urged that the rule which holds good in respect of Orissa and Midnapore ought to hold equally good in respect of the rest of Bengal. The next impediment was the miscellaneous cost of home-made salt in the shape of establishment, ware-house transport charges, excise establishment, preventive establishment and ware-house establishment which amounted to Rs. 25 per 100 maunds, from which foreign salt was free; besides the cost of manufacture of excise salt ranged from Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 per 100 maunds. The next serious drawback against the indegenous manufacture of salt in Bengal was the fixed ware-house establishment of Rs. 51 per month. In 24-Pergunnahs which was the only salt manufacturing district in Bengal the outturn was small and the sales slow, the cost of ware-house establishment bore hard upon the manufacturer. The Rules provided that the importer of foreign goods should pay only the fees of attendance of a Custom House officer, Rs. 5 per diem, and a native mohurrir 8 annas per diem, payable on the days deliveries are made from the Bonded Ware-house. But the country manufacturer has to bear the cost of establishment from month to month until the whole stock is cleared. If the daily charge be levied only for the day there is a clearance, he would feel a sensible relief. The present rules operate seriously to the detriment of the indegenous manufacture of salt in Bengal and give an undue protection to the foreign product and tend to increase the price of salt. Such a result being opposed to the declared policy of the Government of India as regards free trade and the encouragement of indegenous industry, the Committee ventured to solicit that His Honor the Lieutenant Governor will be pleased to remove the drawbacks noticed above by placing the rest of Bengal on the same footing with Midnapore and Orissa, as regards the preventive and excise establishments and extending thereto in a modified form the rules for clearance from Bonded Ware-houses are applicable to imported salt.

THE CITY AND PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Central Railway Station in Calcutta.—Owing to a divergence of opinion as to the proposals made by the Committee of Engineers originally appointed by Government to report on the question of a Central Railway Station in Calcutta, the Government of India directed the Government of Bengal to appoint a Committee of business men and representatives of public bodies for the consideration of the subject. The matters referred to them for consideration were, (1) whether, bearing in mind the extension of the Railway system in Bengal and the bridging of the Hooghly, whereby most of the traffic on the East India Railway and of its connected lines will be brought direct to Calcutta, it is desirable in the interests of trade and for the general convenience of the public that Central passenger and goods stations should be established in the town ; (2), whether the selection of sites by the Committee of Engineers is the best that can be made, in the event of any other site being recommended by the Committee, the probable cost should be stated. (3) The widening of existing streets and the opening out of new ones in the vicinity of stations, or as approaches thereto should be carefully considered ; and the estimated cost of any work of this nature that may be recommended should be reported. The last named Committee have thus summed up their recommendations :— (1) The construction of a central passenger station on the east side of Bentinck Street, on the site between Maredith's Lane and Emambaree Lane. (2) The construction of a goods station for local goods only, on a site between Sealdah Gas Works and Manicktollah Street. (3) The widening of a Bentinck Street throughout, and of the Chitpore Road between Lal Bazar and Canning Street to an uniform breadth of 100 feet, the widening of Waterloo Street to a breadth of 80 feet and the widening of eastern end of Mangoe Lane to a breadth of 80 feet. Having regard to the vital importance of the subject the Committee remarked that they were not satisfied as to the necessity of establishing a central passenger station in the heart of Calcutta. If the question of the Central Railway Station at Calcutta had been pressed upon Government by the proposed construction of the Hooghly Bridge at Chinsurah, as to the location of which there was wide divergence of opinion, it did not necessarily follow that because it had been decided to build a bridge at Chinsurah it was necessary to establish a central terminus for the East Indian Railway in Calcutta. Sealdah, the Committee submitted, was central enough for the different lines of Railway to meet. The question naturally occurred for whose benefit was the Central Railway Station intended? To the distant traveller, the visitor from Lahore, Bombay, Madras or Delhi or Allahabad it would make no difference whether he should terminate his journey at Sealdah or at Bentinck Street. To the European residents who may occasionally travel by rail five or ten minutes' drive from Sealdah would make no appre-

ciable difference, not to say that they could not avoid the drive altogether, for wherever the station might be located, no railway could drop each traveller at his door. If the Central Station be intended for the benefit of short distance passengers, especially those who come daily to Calcutta to attend their offices, the introduction of the tramways obviated the inconvenience which they feel.

If the Central Railway Station be intended for the benefit of the 3rd and 4th class passengers, who were too poor to travel by tram cars and hackneys, Sealdah was more centrical to them than Bentick Street as it was nearer to the native town. If the idea of a separate metropolitan station has been suggested from the experience of London life in the hope of drawing a good portion of the well-to-do population of the capital to the suburbs, that hope, the Committee submitted, was not likely to be realized in Calcutta. The habits, temper and feelings of natives of this country were not in favour of this kind of locomotion. On the other hand the disadvantages of the concentration of six different railway lines in the heart of the town and the running on an average of sixty trains daily could easily be imagined. The smoke, dust and noise will be a great nuisance. The Committee presided over by Mr. Reynolds unlike the Engineer's Committee did not recommend the establishment of a Central Goods Station except for local goods traffic. If there was no necessity for a Central Goods Station, surely there was much less necessity for a central passenger station in Calcutta. As for the location of the station f[illegible] local goods traffic, the Committee were of opinion [illegible] the goods and passenger stations ought to [illegible] in proximity to each other. Lastly the Committee objected to the establishment of a Central Railway Station on the ground of expense. The present estimate was about 3 quarters of a million, but the actual cost might exceed a million. When the disadvantages of the project so much preponderated over its advantages, the Committee urged it would not be expedient or wise to incur such a heavy outlay.

PROPOSED WARE-HOUSES ON THE STRAND-BANK LANDS.—The Committee having been informed that the Port Commissioners of Calcutta had submitted for sanction a proposal for a new line of ware-houses on the site of import sheds within the jetty premises, with a view to let the same on rent, the Committee represented to Government that this proposal was inconsistent with the provisions of Act V. of 1870. Section 39 of that Act describes the general nature of the works which the Port Commissioners are authorized to construct and carry out. Second Clause of this section mentions "tramways, ware-houses, sheds, engines, and other appliances for conveying, receiving and storing goods and merchandise landed or to be shipped." Referring to this clause the Committee remarked that it implied that the Port Commissioners might erect ware-houses with a view to provide temporary accommodation for goods landed or to be shipped. But it was far from the intention of the legislature that the Port Commissioners should built godowns and lease them out for permanent or long occupation of goods to the detriment of private property. It would be most unfair for a corporate body like the Port Commissioners to employ public money in the erection of works the effect of which will be the deterioration of private property. The Committee, further urged that an examination of the records will show that the lands were originally held by private individuals, that these individuals subsequently surrendered the lands for the construction of the Strand Road as an object of public convenience, reserving their rights to the adjoining ghats and accretions, that the late East India Company's Government afterwards asserted their right to the same, and that when the original proprietors and their representatives subsequently waived their claims, they did so on the distinct understanding that the land would be held by Government for the benefit of the public. When a Bill was proposed to be introduced into the Supreme Council entitled" a Bill for declaring and conferring the title to certain lands recovered from the Hooghly," the holders of the lands petitioned to Government on the subject of the proposed alienations and the Government in reply disclaimed all motives of building upon the Strand Road or to alter the line of that road to any great extent and that no elevated buildings were in contemplation. From the facts adduced it was evident that the Strand Bank lands originally belonged to certain private individuals, whose descendants, at least many of them, now own property in the vicinity of the same, and how painful it would be to them to see that the gifts of their ancestors were about to be converted by a body of public trustees with the aid of public money, into an instrument to deteriorate the value of their private property, and thus to reward them for the public spirit and munificence of their ancestors. As the proposal of the Port Commissioners is thus opposed to sound economic principles, law, justice and morality, the Committee expressed a hope that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will be pleased to take this matter into consideration and to withhold his sanction to it.

REPLY OF GOVERNMENT.—The Government of Bengal in reply to the above forwarded to this Association a copy of the letter which it had addressed to the Corporation of Calcutta who had raised similar objections. In that letter the Government cited the authority of the Hon'ble the Advocate General who gave it as his opinion that the Port Commissioners will be within the law in acting as they proposed to do. The interference with private undertakings which the new ware-houses may produce will not in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor be considerable, while in any case it will be more than counterbalanced by the convenience to the public at large, interested in the import and export trade of Calcutta.

POSTAL.

USE OF POSTAGE STAMPS AS RECEIPT STAMPS.—The Committee were invited by the Government of Bengal to express their opinion on the question of using postage stamps as receipt stamps, raised by the Government of India. In reply the Committee remarked that as regards the question of preserving a distinction between the Postal receipts and Stamp revenue it was a question which ought to be settled by Government. The Committee were not opposed to the proposal, but they were of opinion that some precautionary measures ought to be taken to prevent loss and annoyance to the public. To provide against [illegible] contingency of unified stamps after being employed [illegible] stamping receipts being afterwards reused in payment of postage, the Government proposed to print the unified stamps in doubly fugitive ink, so that any attempt to remove the defacement would involve the destruction of the imprint. Further, the Government proposed to prohibit the practice of defacing the postage stamps as is now done by the senders to guard against their removal by servants and post office employes. While the Committee unhesitatingly gave their assent to the proposed arrangement on the score of public convenience they expressed their fear that the prohibition to deface postage stamps will entail loss and inconvenience upon the public. They further stated that not being aware of the nature of the ink proposed to be used in printing stamps they imagined it will be a water colour of a delicate character, if so, it would be obliterated or smudged by contact with water which might be used to remove the stamp from a receipt or envelope. In that case the risk of annoyance and loss will be great. Having regard however to all circumstances connected with the question the Committee expressed their opinion that the balance of the convenience from the use of unified stamps was in favor of the public, and they therefore recommended the adoption of the proposed system as an experimental measure with such precautions and safeguards as might be deemed necessary to provide against loss, annoyance and possible penal prosecutions.

SALARIES OF THE JUDGES OF THE BENGAL HIGH COURT.

The Committee received a communication early this year from a Committee of the Calcutta Bar, inviting their opinion as to what steps should be taken with reference to the despatch of the Secretary of State for India relating to the reduction of the salaries of the Judges of the High Court. The Committee in reply expressed their sympathy with the improvement set on foot by the Calcutta Bar and their readiness to subscribe to the memorial when it is finally adopted and made ready for signature. The memorial when finally settled was signed by the President and Secretary of this Association. The Committee regret to state that the Secretary of State has not been pleased to accede to the prayer of the memorialists.

COST OF THE EGYPTIAN WAR.

The question of the payment of the cost of the Indian contingent for Egypt came before the Committee for consideration. They were of opinion that it would be unfair and unjust to tax the people of India for the expenses of a war which was undertaken not for the protection of any Indian interest but for the maintenance of England's imperial power. In this war are involved England's Imperial interests in which India has a very subordinate place. Furthermore, in protecting the interests of her own commerce England sought to protect those of the commerce of the world. The Committee noticed with satisfaction that the Government of Lord Ripon had protested against the decision of the Home Government to saddle India with the cost of the Indian contingent for India. They finally came to the Resolution that they should defer petitioning Parliament till the liability of Indian was known.

DURGA PUJA HOLIDAYS.

The Committee feel thankful that the question of the Durga Puja Holidays has at last been finally set at rest by the decisive action of the Government of Bengal and the Government of India in reference to a representation of the Chamber of Commerce. There was one minor point, regarding which their President, Maharaja Narendra Krishna, at the request of the Committee, addressed the Lieutenant-Governor demi-officially. The point was this that, the holidays instead of commencing clear two days before the commencement of the Puja proper as was the practice in times past, were under Government notification of the current year made to commence from the Sasti day or only one day before the Puja. The President was informed in reply that no change could then be made without serious hardship to the mercantile community, who had made their arrangements according to the formal notification issued by Government, but that special care will be taken in issuing the notification from the next year that the holidays are fixed to commence from the *Punchami* day.

The President then addressed the meeting to the following effect :

Gentlemen,—From the report just read by our worthy Secretary, it will be seen that the transactions of the Association during the last six months have been all of a useful and important character. Several measures were discussed, and I am glad to say that the suggestions made by the Committee in regard to them, received the careful attention and consideration of Government. I shall not take up any time unnecessarily of the other speakers who would gladly address the meeting, but shall briefly confine my remarks to the local self-government scheme and the expenditure on the Egyptian war. I think I need not go into the history of the local self-government scheme, as anybody who has read with care the resolution of the Government of India and the Bengal Government circular of the 4th November 1881, knows that it is the logical sequence of Lord Mayo's decentralisation scheme, and the credit of granting this privilege solely belongs to the Marquis of Ripon's administration. Influential meetings in all parts of India have been held by the people to express their heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed Viceroy for this boon. While on this subject, I may remark that, as no very clear distinction has been made between works of a provincial and of a purely local character, a good deal of confusion is likely to arise in future in the working of this beneficial measure. So I would suggest that when any Bills are brought forward on the subject, particular attention will be paid to this point, and due safeguards provided to obviate the difficulty indicated, without imposing additional burdens on the people, and effecting at the same time material reductions in expenditure.

With regard to the costs of the Egyptian war, it may be observed that it was undertaken to avoid European complications, which are well-known to the public. India was asked to furnish a Contingent, which fought gallantly side by side with the British soldiers against the rebel Arabi and his troops. Their services have been highly commended by her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. As this war was solely carried on to prevent European complications, India cannot be justly saddled with any portion of this expenditure, and the war, strictly speaking, was not projected to protect the interests of this country. The high sense of justice of the Viceroy and Liberal Ministry will prevent them from charging any portion of the expenses of the Egyptian war upon the revenues of India. In conclusion, I beg to add that the whole native community of Bengal is extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Rivers Thompson, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for sanctioning the Doorga Pooja holidays to commence in future from the *Panchami* instead of the *Sosti* day, for the convenience of the public and the Hindu *employe's* of Government. On the motion of Baboo Hurry Mohun Bose seconded by Baboo Chundergoti Mustuffi the report was received and adopted.

Carried.

The following elections were submitted for confirmation : Maharaja Krishna Protap Sahai Bahadur, of Hutwa, proposed by Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Jotindro Mohun Tagore Bahadur, seconded by Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur ; Babu Gopal Chunder Gangooly, landholder, and engineer, Sibpore, proposed by the Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Jotindro Mohun Tagore Bahadur, seconded by Babu Peary Mohun Mookerjee, Baboo Grija Prosunno Mookerjee, zemindar, Govardanga, proposed by the Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Jotindro Mohun Tagore, seconded by Babu Juggodish Nath Roy ; Hon'ble Harbuns Sahai, pleader and zemindar, Arrah, proposed by Maharaja Narendra Krishna, Bahadur, seconded by Babu Saligram Sing.

Confirmed.

The names of the undermentioned gentlemen were next submitted for election : Mr. Norilpoda, barrister-at-law, and zemindar, Patna, proposed by Nawab Mir Mahommed Ali, seconded by Babu Charoo Chunder Mullick ; Babu Roma Nath Ghose, zemindar, Calcutta, proposed by Babu Charoo Chunder Mullick, seconded by Hon'ble the Maharaja Sir Jotindro Mohun Tagore Bahadur, K.C.S.I.

Carried.

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Babu Joykissen Mookerjee then addressed the meeting as follows: On one portion of the report of the Committee I wish to make a few observations. The Government of India with a liberality worthy of their illustrious head have lately recorded a resolution expressing their desire that before the introduction of a Bill into the Council the objects and reasons of the measure and the circumstances to which it owes its origin should be published in order to enable the public to offer their opinions and suggestions upon it. Such an excellent resolution speaks volumes on the desire of the Supreme Government to take the people into its confidence. In the face of such benevolent intentions of our rulers, I am at a loss to understand why the Rent Bill as last amended was not published in India before it was sent up to the Secretary of State for India and why the application of this Association for a copy of the same and of the remarks of Government regarding it was refused. It will be admitted on all hands that the proposed Rent Law surpasses in importance any measure that has come before the Council since 1859. It contains many provisions which will revolutionize the relations between the landholders and their tenants The amendments made in Mr. Reylands' Bill by the Bengal and the Indian Governments should have been subjected to public criticism before the Bill was submitted to the Secretary of State. As it is, the Secretary of State has had no opportunity of hearing Indian public opinion on perhaps a number of important provisions of the Bill, and yet the Bill will come out to India cut and dry with its broad lines finally determined. I hope the recent ministerial change will cause delay in the final settlement of the Bill in England and the Indian public will still be allowed an opportunity of seeing the amended Bill before the fiat of the Secretary of State is put upon it. All that we can now do is to appoint a central committee composed of representative men of Bengal and Behar, for the purpose of commenting upon the Bill when it is published and watching its progress through Council.

The Secretary then informed the meeting that the Committee had had under their consideration the question of organizing an united movement to watch the progress of the Rent Bill. They had communicated with the Behar Landholders' and the East Bengal Landholders' Associations on the subject, who entirely agreed with this Association, and offered to co-operate with the Committee on the subject. The Behar Landholders' Association had already nominated representatives for the proposed Central Committee, and the East Bengal Landholders' Association had offered to communicate the names of their representatives. The Committee also communicated with Mr. M. L. Macnaughten, who was kind enough to offer his hearty co-operation, and also to secure the sympathy and assistance of several leading European gentlemen interested in the land question.

The Hon'ble Durga Churn Law then moved the appointment of a Central Committee of Landholders to watch the progress of the Rent Bill and to make representations in connection therewith, consisting of the following gentlemen:

Bengal.—Hon'ble Maharaja Sir Joteendro Mohun Tagore Bahadur, K.C.S.I., Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur; Maharaja Komul Krishna Bahadur; Raja Suttyanund Ghosal Bahadur; Raja Poorno Chunder Sing Bahadur; Raja Harendra Krishna Bahadur; Raja Surya Kant Acharya Chowdry; Raja Promotho Nath Roy Bahadur; Raja Shama Sunker Roy Chowdhry; Raja Promotho Bhoosun Roy; Hon'ble Doorga Churn Law; Babu Joykissen Mookerji; Dr. Rajendra Lala Mittra, C.I.E.; Nawab Mir Mahomed Ali; Babus Mohini Mohun Roy, Peary Mohun Mookerjee, Jogendra Chundra Ghose, Kali Prosonno Ghose, Saradendra Nath Tagore, Gobind Lal Seal, Bejoykissen Mookerjee, Kissory Mohun Gossain, and Lolit Mohun Roy Chowdry; Mahomed Rashid Khan, and Koomar Rajendra Naryan Roy.

Behar.—Maharajas of Durbhunga, Doomraon, and Hutwa; Raja Hurbullub Narain Sing; Hon'ble Hurbans Sahai; Hon'ble Mahomed Yusuff; Babu Saligram Sing, and Roy Joyprokash Lal Bahadur.

European Landholders.—Messrs. J. J. Keswick, G. F. Mewburn, E. A. Thurburn, J. P. Thomas, J. J. Guise, J. Murdoch, and M. L. Macnaughten.

Newab Mir Mahamed Ali seconded the motion. *Carried.*

Babu Pearymohun Mookerjea said: I think this Association should move in the matter of the Chowkeedari Commission which have been recently appointed by Government. A few months ago when Government gave out their intention of appointing a Police Commission, high hopes were raised that at last some thing would be done towards the reform of the Mofussil Police, but now that the Commission have been appointed, all those hopes have been dissipated by reason of the narrowness of the limits within which the Commission have been asked to confine their enquiries. All that Government seems at present to aim at is regularity in the payment of chowkeedars and the elevation of the status of village Punchayets. To those who are familiar with the working of the Mofussil Police nothing is more clear than that the accomplishment of these aims would go only a little way towards police reform. It is not on the chowkeedar's willingness to work or even on the ability and zeal of the members of the Punchayet that the efficiency of the police depends. The Pharidars, the Sub-Inspectors and the Inspectors exercise perhaps the greatest influence for good or evil on the community. It is at their beck on the one hand that the chowkeedars and the Punchayet mould their conduct and it is on their statements on the other that the District Superintendents form their conclusions. The fates of most of the cognisable cases which come before the Criminal Courts depend on the investigations and reports made by them. If Government be desirous of purging a system which is believed to be rotten to the core of its abuses the Commission's sphere of enquiry should be much more widened. We enjoy many blessings under the Government, we shall soon have the system of self-government in full operation, and perhaps also another experiment for wiping off poverty from the ryot's household, but permit me emphatically to tell those in power that no amount of reform and progress in other branches of the administration can compensate for the evils of an inefficient, corrupt and oppressive Police. I beg, therefore, to move that the matter be referred to the Managing Committee for a proper representation to Government.

Babu Juggodishnath Roy seconded the motion. *Carried.*

Babu Jogendrachunder Ghose then addressed the meeting on the subject of the limit of age for candidates for the Indian Civil Service Examination:

". . . . Candidates were first allowed to compete up to the age of 23, and instantly after passing went out to India. This was found to be inconvenient, because successful competitors went out in ignorance of nearly all they were required to know to fit them for the due discharge of their duties, and, therefore had to spend two or three years drawing high pay before they could be set to work.

The age was reduced, first to 22 and then to 21, to give first *one* year's, and then *two* years' probation in England, . . .

Candidates were allowed to compete *four times*. They had to be "over 17 and under 21." This was perhaps one too many, because sometimes superhuman efforts were made to secure success at the first trial, with very bad results. Three tries at 18, 19, and 20, would probably have been better, and secured more careful, because less hurried preparation. . .

But the throwing open of the service to public competition made others besides public school and University men anxious to secure appointments. It was the intention of the Liberal Statesmen who threw it open, that it should. The India Civil Service was not to be a monopoly of those who habitually go to Public Schools, and Oxford or Cambridge. Poverty was to be no disqualification. Non-conformity was to be no disqualification. *Natives of India were not to be disqualified.* . . . . . Free Trade was introduced in teaching as well as in learning men without either free buildings or endowments, even men without University degrees, and men not in holy orders, men whose only recommendation was competence, presumed to compete with the recognized leaders in the work of education in England. . . . . An unsuccessful candidate was to have no reason to be sorry he had "competed for the Indian Civil Service." As, however, there were sure to be some disappointments, it was desirable that these should be as few as possible. The four tries effected this. All the weak, all the over-rated, all the half-hearted got sifted out. Scarcely a man competed for the last trial without a really good chance of success. The few who were disappointed (if not scholars of Colleges already) got scholarships, Ceylon and Home Civil Service, and other consolations. . . . . Those of the candidates who saw hopes of success at the 3rd or 4th competition persevered. Those who did not retired. Large numbers entered for the race. In 1869 and 1870, 323 and 327 competed. The best men gradually went ahead of those who fell off, and none but men of exceptional ability—mentally, morally, physically better than their rivals, became Civil Servants of the Crown in India. . . .

But the Free-traders not only worked hard themselves and took care their pupils worked, and provided equally good teaching with any to be found at Oxford and Cambridge, but also charged less money for it.

. . . Not only was Free-trade beating monopoly, but the original object of throwing the service open to public competition, *viz.*, to get rid of "favour," to give all classes an equal chance of success, and to get the best men, was being attained. What would become of the reverend monopolists?

The accession of a Tory Ministry to power in 1874 was seized as favourable time for getting Protection for harassed interests, restoring Patronage and Favour, getting rid of non-conformists, *Natives of India*, and others "socially unfit" for the service, and also of those teachers who presumed to teach more and better than the Public Schools do.

All the charges were conclusively refuted by Mr. Walrond, C.B., then Secretary to, now one of, the Civil Service Commissioners. He proved that the charge of "social unfitness" was untrue, since 78 per cent. were "sons of parents belonging to the aristocracy, gentry, army, navy, Indian Civil Service, and learned professions, and only 4 per cent. tradesmen," . . . The percentage of Natives of India is not given But it may be taken as influential.

"But he was arguing against a foregone conclusion. Inspite of Lord Northbrook, who saw through the plan, Lord Salisbury made the changes the head masters petitioned for. . . .

Lord Salisbury took an enormous amount of evidence. It produced an amazing effect on him. . . . . Lord Salisbury had got mixed by the mass of evidence and the Letter and the Minute. His kind heartedness did not fail him, though his keenness did.

On 26th May, 1876, the Civil Service Commissioners wrote to the Under-Secretary of State for India that they would give their best assistance in carrying into effect Lord Salisbury's resolution that the age should be lowered and a new schedule of subjects and marks drawn up. . . . . .

We come to the Petition of the Head Masters to Lord Salisbury, drawn up by the Committee of the Conference of Head Masters. They asked that the examination should be made to *Harmonize with the General Course of Education as Pursued in the best Schools;* and especially that—

1.—Certain subjects hitherto included, should be excluded.

2.—All temptation to aim at accumulating hastily acquired, digested information should be taken away.

(Mr. Wren says no such temptation existed).

3.—The number of subjects a candidate may take up should be limited. . . .

4.—*Special Prominence* should be given to such subjects as are prescribed by the schemes of *Public and Endowed* Schools.—(*i.e.* of England, not India.)

The Head Masters predicted that if they got the changes they asked for they would be able to turn out a larger number of successful candidates i.e., the service was to be sacrificed to the schools. Public schools were to have protection, to be favoured, at the expense of non-conformists, of the Natives of India, of justice, of efficiency, against the advice of the Civil Service Commissioners. . . . . .

Candidates are now allowed to compete twice only, at 17 and 18 years of age. They must be "over 17 under 19" years old on the first of June.

. . . . I blame the system, I say it is calculated to break down the best men instead of developing them into the best men for India when they get there. This is the way to ruin candidates, and education too. This is the way the New Regulations remove "all temptation to aim at accumulating hastily—acquired, ill-digested information, and limit the number of subjects candidates take up!!

Under the old Regulations such folly was possible; but it was very seldom seen candidates had more tries. They took things more easily. . . . . .

It is respectfully submitted that the original intention of throwing open the Service to Public competition is of more consequence than the dry nursing of the Public Schools, and that changes made, in Regulations proved by Mr. Walrond to have accomplished that original intention, for the purpose of favouring Public Schools, are condemned *in limini*; also that the question of the effect produced by those Regulations on particular schools or Colleges, ought never to have been entertained, and that the only matter for the consideration of the Secretary of State is "How to secure the best men for H. M. C. S. of India." That should be done which is best for the Civil Service of India, without care either for individual or class interests. The present regulations are of course popular with Head Masters, because they were drawn up for the express purpose of giving favours to them unfairly, to which they have no claim. . . . . .

Of course a good many parents like the changes. They are glad to get their sons off their hands and in first-rate positions before reaching the age of 21. There is a temptation for parents of moderate means with large families to urge promising boys of 16 to the uttermost, pointing out what a great thing it will be alike for the boy, the parents, and the younger children, if the eldest is independent at an early age, and able, if wanted, to help younger brothers and sisters. There should be no inducement to such pressure.

. . . . . .

Of course a good many boys like the New Regulations. They are willing enough to put up with a good deal to win the I. C. S. at 17, to go to Oxford for two years, and to India at 20, independent gentlemen "able to marry," while most of their schoolfellows are still undergraduates. They very much prefer working 12 or 13 hours a day for two years to working eight for *four*.

It is not good for them or the service that they should.

. . . . . .

The evil results of crowding so much work into so short time remain the same.

Parents can refuse "selected candidates" nothing-or very little they are able to give them.

The discipline they were to be subjected to, and the moral responsibility which was to be undertaken for them by the New Regulations, is a very limited quantity. Everyone who has been to a University knows that they are. The morality of undergraduates is much the same as that of other young men of the same age. The discipline involved in coming into college "before 12" is good humouredly submitted to. . . That College Dons and Deans, who are in the enjoyment of the little prizes of University First class men, should exercise moral control over those in possession of a much bigger prize if they choose to keep it, and who, in a very short time, will be in the responsible discharge of more important duties, is as good humouredly referred to—not to say laughed at.

☞ *See page* 9.

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